

CONFIDENTIAL.

(5076.)

PART IX.

F.O.

403

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF NORTH AFRICA.

54

October to December 1884.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of North Africa.

PART IX.

[The Papers Nos. 1 to 1 c should have been incorporated in the previous volume, Part VIII.]

No. 1.

Earl Granville to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 35.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, July 17, 1884.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith certain articles which have recently appeared in the "Globe" newspaper,* purporting to disclose the existence of certain abuses in Morocco with regard to imprisonment for British and other foreign claims. These articles have been brought to the attention of Parliament, and I have to request you to inquire into the truth of the statements therein contained, and to furnish me with a Report on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 1 A.

Earl Granville to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 4. Consular.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, August 8, 1884.

IN compliance with the suggestion contained in your despatch No. 18 of the 22nd ultimo, I am directed by Earl Granville to acquaint you that his Lordship approves of Mr. Payton, Her Majesty's Consul at Mogador, proceeding to the ports of Mazagan, Saffee, and Daralbaida, in order to inspect the Vice-Consulates at those places, and to investigate at the last-mentioned place the charges adduced against Vice-Consul Lapeen.

Consul Payton's travelling expenses will be repaid him, and while on this duty, he will receive the customary allowance granted to Consuls, while detached from their posts on public service, of 1*l.* a-day.

You should at once issue the requisite instructions in this matter to Mr. Payton.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

* "Globe," July 10, 11, and 12

[No. 1 B.]

The Lord Mayor of London to Earl Granville.—(Received August 25.)

Dear Lord Granville, *The Mansion House, London, August 23, 1884.*
 I HAVE been requested to forward the inclosed Memorial to you.
 Yours, &c.
 (Signed) R. N. FOWLER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1 B.

Messrs. Abrines and Cohen to the Lord Mayor of London.

My Lord, *Tangier, August 16, 1884.*
 WE have the honour to inclose herewith a Memorial from the British Colony here addressed to the Earl Granville, which we shall feel obliged if your Lordship will kindly present on our behalf as early as possible.
 We also inclose three printed copies, one of which we shall feel obliged if you will present to the Right Honourable W. E. Gladstone and one to the Earl Granville with the original, which, after perusal, we desire his Lordship to forward to Mr. Meakin, retaining the printed copy.

We have, &c.
 (Signed) G. T. ABRINES, *Editor of "Al-Moghreb Al-Aksa."*
 L. A. COHEN, *Editor of "Le Réveil du Maroc."*

Inclosure 2 in No. 1 B.

Memorial.

To the Right Honourable the Earl Granville, Her Majesty's Secretary of State.

May it please your Lordship,

WE, the undersigned British subjects residing in Morocco, recognizing the benefits which Mr. Edward E. Meakin has conferred upon our community by his untiring efforts for the public good since he has resided amongst us, and believing that his great commercial experience and thorough knowledge of Mahomedans and their laws and usages, which renders him very popular amongst the Moors, eminently qualifies him to be our representative.

We have therefore asked him to accept that position, and we earnestly pray that your Lordship and Her Majesty's Government will graciously be pleased to recognize him in that capacity, and give due consideration to the views and opinions which he may from time to time express in regard to British enterprise in this Empire, as our duly constituted and appointed spokesman and elected representative.

We have, &c.
 (Signed) L. A. COHEN, *Editor of "Le Réveil du Maroc."*

(And 45 others.)

Tangier, August 13, 1884.

No. 1 C.]

Messrs. Learoyd and Co. to Earl Granville.—(Received September 18.)

Albion Chambers, opposite Moorgate Station, London,
September 16, 1884.

My Lord,
 REFERRING to Mr. Lister's letter of yesterday's date saying your Lordship will be ready to consider any information relative to Mr. Meakin which we may wish to lay before you, we think it right to say that Mr. Meakin left this country only a few months ago while an application was pending before Mr. Justice Kay for an attachment against him by reason of his misappropriation of and neglect to repay moneys of which he had become possessed as a trustee for an Indian widow lady and her two children; and an order for his attachment was made against him and would have been followed by his arrest but for his departure from the country.

We confine ourselves to the bare statement of this fact.

We have, &c.
 (Signed) LEAROYD AND CO.

No. 1 D.]

Consul White to Earl Granville.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 93.) *Tangier, September 25, 1884.*
 My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 91 of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to report that M. Blondel having returned to Tangier from Ain Hamra, Kaid Abd-es-Saduk, the Governor of Tangier, proceeded with the troops under his command to a spot called Et-Tuein, which adjoins Ain Hamra.

Upon their arrival at this place a number of the inhabitants of Ain Hamra went to the camp, and sacrificed some heads of cattle in token of submission, praying for mercy.

The Basha informed them that the Sultan had directed that their lives and property should be spared conditionally upon their submitting to His Majesty's orders, surrendering twenty prisoners to be designated by the Basha, paying the fine that would be levied upon them, and sending a certain number of hostages to the Court at Fez.

Twenty prisoners from Ain Hamra having this day arrived at Tangier, it would appear that the villagers have accepted the conditions imposed upon them, and have made a full and complete submission.

The French Minister, M. Ordega, has been urgent in his endeavours to obtain a free pardon for the people of Ain Hamra, and has made frequent representations at the Sultan's Court with this object, in order to save the prestige of his protégé, the Shereef of Wazan.

Failing in obtaining a promise of free pardon, M. Ordega offered that, if the Sultan would pardon all the other inhabitants of Ain Hamra, the Shereef would cause a certain number of them to be delivered to the Basha of Tangier. The Sultan, however, declined to admit of the Shereef acting as an intermediary between him and his subjects.

During these negotiations M. Ordega took care to provide against any attack upon Ain Hamra by the Sultan's troops, keeping the Shereef or M. Blondel constantly in that village. Finding, however, the Sultan determined at all costs to assert his authority, M. Ordega finally thought fit to content himself with obtaining an assurance that the lives and property of the villagers should be respected if they submitted to the Sultan's demands. Hence the withdrawal of M. Blondel from Ain Hamra.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) HORACE P. WHITE.

No. 2.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received October 3.)

Dear Lord Granville,

Travellers' Club, Pall Mall, October 3, 1884.

HAVING been informed that M. Ferry has not yet acceded to your Lordship's request to publish a disclaimer in the "Gaulois" of the libellous language attributed to M. Ordega regarding myself, and as I do not expect that M. Ferry will be disposed to take any step which he thinks may affect the character of M. Ordega, who he caused to be decorated and promoted to the rank of Minister from the third to first class in consequence of his late proceedings at Tangier, and as your Lordship may desire to avoid having further question with the French Government upon this subject, I beg to be informed whether your Lordship would object that a question be put in the House of Lords regarding the various charges and accusations which have been made against me in French and English journals during the last four months. A denial from your Lordship would be a great satisfaction to me, for though your Lordship addressed me on the 1st August a very kind and flattering despatch, its contents are not known to the public.

Since my return to England, relatives and friends who had noticed these accusations have urged me to take steps to vindicate my character, and one or two Members of the House of Lords have offered to put a question to your Lordship upon this subject.

Before accepting this offer, I think it right to refer to your Lordship, but I am especially anxious that some such step should be taken, as the local journals at Tangier, especially the "Réveil," the organ of M. Ordega, continue to refer to the accusations made against me of having obstructed British interests and reforms in Morocco, and these articles are occasionally copied into French and English papers. These increasing accusations being put forward without any denial lead the public who take any interest in Morocco to suppose that they are not without foundation: I hope, therefore, your Lordship will excuse my having again to trouble your Lordship upon this subject.

After forty-four years' service, during which term my conduct has been invariably approved by Her Majesty's Government—whilst I have been repeatedly told that the reason why I was not removed from Morocco to a better post was that my services in that country were deemed to be useful, it is very painful for me at the approaching end of a long career to be held up to ignominy as an officer who has failed to do his duty.

French Agents, and, I may add, the French Government, who believe, with some reason, that I took an active part in exposing and thwarting their ambitious schemes in Morocco, have, I am persuaded, had an object in view in bringing me into discredit with my countrymen and the world. To a certain extent they have succeeded, whilst M. Ordega, who had caused all the trouble in Morocco, has been rewarded by his Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

P.S.—Lord E. Fitzmaurice, who I have spoken to upon this subject, informed me that he proposes to visit your Lordship to-morrow at Walmer, and kindly offered to mention to your Lordship the language I had held to him.

I leave England on the 22nd instant for Tangier. As I am making a tour of visits, my address is—care of Foreign Office.

J. H. D. H.

No. 3.

Mr. Lister to Sir A. Liddell.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 3, 1884.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you herewith copy of a letter from Messrs. Learoyd and Co.* respecting the antecedents of a Mr. Meakin, who has been selected as their "representative" by certain British residents in Morocco, and I am

* No. 1 c.

to request that in laying this paper before Secretary Sir W. Harcourt, you will move him to take such steps as may be in his power with the object of testing the accuracy of the statements contained in it, and to inform Lord Granville of the result.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 4.

Earl Granville to M. Waddington.

(Confidential.)

Dear Waddington,

Walmer, October 4, 1884.

I FORGOT to mention to you this afternoon during your very pleasant visit, which Lady Granville and I liked very much, that M. Ferry has not answered my last application in the matter of the "Gaulois" attack upon Sir J. Drummond Hay.

I am told that I am to be questioned on the matter when the House meets, which it would be better to avoid.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 5.

Consul White to Earl Granville.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 94.)

My Lord,

Tangier, September 26, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, extract from a letter I have received from Acting Consul Johnston, of Mogador, communicating detailed information of the disturbed state of parts of the Province of Soos, and the revolt of the inhabitants against their Governors. It would appear from this report that the Governors have lost all control over the population, and that the houses of several of them have been plundered, and that they have had to seek for safety in flight.

It is to be feared that if this state of things continues, it may retard the promised opening of ports in Soos, in which project the Sultan appears to take great interest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HORACE P. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 5.

Acting Consul Johnston to Consul White.

(Extract.)

Mogador, September 15, 1884.

ON the night of the 3rd instant a considerable force of tribesmen, said to hail from Hooara, and even from so far as Ras-el-Wad, succeeded in sacking the house of Kaid Brahim Ben Dlaïmy, a fortress which has the reputation of being the strongest in Soos. The Kaid, warned of their approach, and lacking probably the support of his own clan, is reported to have taken refuge with Kaid Hadj Hamed, of Akseema, whose stronghold, on the northern bank of the Soos River, is within two hours' easy ride of Agadir.

Hitherto the movement has been one of single tribes against their own Governors, on the old ground of excessive taxation unauthorized by the Sultan. But this march of apparently well-armed men, horse and foot, from the centre and extreme east of Soos to the neighbourhood of the coast, leads one to suspect the existence of some organized plan for upsetting Shereefian rule south of the Atlas. I need hardly say popular rumours credits Cidi Hosein-bel-Hashem with fomenting the general discontent. Sympathizers with the movement, and they are plentiful enough in Mogador, all declare that the Sultan's spiritual influence is to be respected, but, say they, "We should have our own Sheiks, chosen by ourselves. Every tribe has its own Ait Arbâen, which keeps order and sees that property is protected, far better than any Kaid can. We do not mind making the Sultan presents occasionally, but we object to his forcing upon us Governors whose only business is to enrich themselves at our expense. We are not afraid of the Sultan. When he came last to us

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B*

we were dying of starvation, yet he had to make large presents, and larger promises, to cover his hasty retreat. Now, thank Heaven, we are well and strong, with plenty of powder and steel," and so on.

A Jew who came in from Tarudant (September 10) tells me that altogether six Governors' houses have been plundered, the furthest east being at Aooloos, marked on Hooker's map as on the spurs of the Anti-Atlas chain, at about 100 miles from the coast.

For some weeks Moulai-el-Ameen has been stationed at the Kaid Sbaë's house, about half way between here and Morocco city, with, I am informed, 500 Royal troops, and a levy of some 1,200 men from Rahamna, Mezouda, and Shiadma, with the view of overawing the Governor of Mtooga into paying a fine for some raid committed by him on the Sbaës' territory. Moulai-el-Ameen's ultimate mission is stated to be to pacify Soos. Considering how fast news flies here, and that the tribes south of the Atlas must have been aware long ago of his approach, their assault on Ben Dlamy's fortress would seem to confirm my impression that they are prepared to resist any real exercise of Shereefian authority.

No. 6.

(No. 182.)
My Lord,

Mr. Fenton to Earl Granville.—(Received October 6.)

The Hague, October 4, 1884.

WITH reference to Mr. Stuart's despatch No. 2 of the 5th January, I have the honour to forward herewith the translation of a Bill, and of the explanatory statement annexed to it, approving the recognition by the Netherlands of the judicial authority of the French Courts, and the suspension of the Netherlands' Consular jurisdiction in the Regency of Tunis.

This Bill, which was presented to and approved by the Second Chamber of the States-General in the course of last Session, was yesterday passed by the First Chamber by an unanimous vote.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. P. FENTON.

Inclosure in No. 6.

Bill to sanction the Accession on the part of the Netherlands to the Proposal made by France to render Netherlands Subjects in the Regency of Tunis amenable to the French Administration of Justice introduced in that Country.

(Translation.)

WE, William III, by the Grace of God, King of the Netherlands, Prince of Orange-Nassau, Grand Duke of Luxemburg, &c.

Know all men by these presents:

Having taken into consideration that, in consequence of recent events, the organization and legal procedure of and by French Courts of Justice have been introduced in the Regency of Tunis by the French Law of the 27th March, 1883, and by the Decrees for the carrying out of that Law, which was declared to be in force by Ordinance of the Bey of Tunis of the 18th April of the same year;

Having regard to the third paragraph of Article 57 of the Constitution;

Having consulted the Council of State, and deliberated with the States-General, we have approved and sanctioned the following Articles:—

Article 1. The recognition of the judicial authority of the French Courts, and the suspension of the Consular jurisdiction in the Regency of Tunis, shall be sanctioned in the same form in which it was drawn up in the despatch sent by our Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the French Republic at our Court of the 28th June, 1883, of which a copy is hereunto annexed.

Netherlands subjects residing in the Regency aforesaid will, in consequence, be subject to the judicial authority of the above-mentioned Courts, with this proviso, that in default, at any time, of this judicial authority, the competency granted to the Netherlands Consuls to administer justice in that country by the ancient Capitulations and Treaties shall be legally revived.

Art. 2. This Law shall be binding from the day of its promulgation.

We order and direct that this Law shall be inserted in the official Gazette, and that all Ministerial Departments, Boards, Authorities, and Civil Servants whom it concerns shall co-operate to the exact carrying out of the same.

Given at

(Signed)

Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Minister of Justice.

Abolition of Consular Courts, &c., in the Regency of Tunis.

Explanatory Statement.

(Translation.)

In consequence of the recent events in the Regency of Tunis, a Convention was concluded on the 12th May, 1881, between His Highness the Bey and the French Government, known by the name of the Treaty of Bardo, the text of which is hereunto annexed. The organization and legal procedure of and by French Courts of Justice have been since introduced; the French Law relating to it was published in France under date of the 27th March last, while by Decrees of the President of the French Republic of the 14th April following to carry out the Law, on the one hand the jurisdiction of the Judges, on the other the constitution of the Court at Tunis, administering justice in criminal causes, are regulated. By the Decree of the Bey of Tunis of the 18th April, 1883, the above-mentioned French Law was declared to be in force in the Regency; and the subsequent Decree of His Highness on the 5th May following ordains that the subjects of those Powers which should agree to resign the Consular jurisdiction to which they were entitled by the Capitulations and Treaties shall be subject to the French judicial authority.

The text of the above-mentioned Law and Decrees is hereunto annexed.

Under date of the 11th May the first of the Undersigned received from the French Government, in the despatch hereunto annexed from the French Minister at the Hague, the request that the Netherlands would also resign their Consular jurisdiction in the Regency, and rest contented with the French judicial authority introduced there.

Before deciding on their answer to this application, the Government was of opinion that information ought to be obtained from the various European Powers with regard to the line of conduct adopted by them in this case.

After it had been made clear to them that those Powers had no objection, in principle, to acceding to the arrangement proposed, the despatch of which a copy is hereunto annexed was sent under date of the 28th June last by the first of the Undersigned to the Minister above mentioned in answer to his request. The last phase of the negotiations with other Powers is shown in the despatch, of which a copy is also hereunto annexed, from the President of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the French Republic to His Majesty's Minister at Paris of the 25th February, 1884.

In the opinion of the Government there was the less objection on the part of the Netherlands to acceding to the arrangement therein mentioned, as the number of Netherlands subjects settled in the Regency is very small, and the exercise of judicial authority under the Law of the 25th July, 1871, has not, up to the present time, been granted to the Netherlands Consul-General at Tunis; cases of judicial decisions by Netherlands Consuls at Tunis are consequently unknown at the Department for Foreign Affairs.

Meanwhile, it did not seem to the Government desirable to accede to the new regulation unconditionally, but to provide for the case of the French judicial authority, in view of future possibilities ceasing to be in force, in which case the Consular jurisdiction would have to be legally revived, and again take the place of it.

(Signed)

VAN DER DOES DE WILLEBOIS,

Minister for Foreign Affairs.

DU TOUR VAN BELLINCHAVE,

Minister of Justice.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 20. Consular.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, in original, Consul Payton's Report on the charges that have been preferred against Vice-Consul Lapeen, of Daralbaida, by Captain Rolleston and others, together with a copy of his despatch covering the Report.

Mr. Payton appears to have investigated thoroughly every case of alleged injustice that was brought to his notice, and his Report will be found to contain a clear and dispassionate statement of each particular case.

It is evident from his Report that Mr. Payton, whilst he blames Mr. Lapeen for having put forward claims for amounts which had already been partly paid, and having thereby caused great injustice to have been done to several persons, and whilst in one case at least* he considers that compensation is due from him to an innocent man unjustly injured by his fault, is of opinion that the charges preferred against him have been exaggerated.

It is, I think, no excuse for Mr. Lapeen that other claimants beside himself have put forward claims for the recovery of debts which had already been in part paid.

Mr. Lapeen received instructions from this Legation to transmit lists of all pending claims of British subjects, himself included, together with the original documents on which the claims were based, for examination by Commissioners sent by the Sultan to Tangier for that purpose. If Mr. Lapeen thought fit to insert in these lists the amounts originally due, although he had no instructions to that effect, it was clearly his duty to have noted at the same time the amounts that had been paid on account, and his neglect to do so was the immediate cause of much of the injustice complained of.

It is a weak defence to contend, as Mr. Lapeen does, that it was for the Moorish authorities to discover from indorsements on the documents whether or not anything had been paid on account, or for the debtors to prove what had been paid by production of receipts. From the loose way in which business transactions are notoriously carried on by many European traders and merchants with the ignorant natives of this country, it is frequently impossible for the latter to prove payments, owing to their neglecting to take receipts, or even to recover the original proof of debt, which is often left in the hands of the creditor when payment has been made in full.

In Case 6 in Mr. Payton's Report it was alleged that no indorsements of payments had been made on the documents or receipts given, and when Mr. Lapeen was questioned on this point he was unable to state whether it was so or not.

There is good reason to suspect, from the admission of Mr. Lapeen as to the custom at Daralbaida, that a considerable portion of the money claimed by British and other foreign subjects at that port has been already paid, and that many unfortunate debtors are detained in prison for amounts which they do not really owe. The claims of Vice-Consul Lapeen alone amount to the large sum of 31,393 dollars, and it would be impossible to say, without a strict scrutiny of each separate claim, what is the amount really due.

Under these circumstances I should wish to learn from your Lordship whether it is desired that, when payment of the claims of British subjects is effected, the claims of Mr. Lapeen and other British subjects at Daralbaida shall receive a careful investigation before the money recovered is delivered to them.

Mr. Payton justly animadvert on the hardship of the relatives of debtors being held responsible for debts with which they have no concern, and rightly absolves Mr. Lapeen from blame on this account. The fact is, great pressure had been exercised by the Representatives of foreign Powers to enforce payment of the long-pending claims of the subjects of their respective nations, notably by the presence last year of an Italian squadron at Tangier; and the Sultan, in his desire to rid himself of the trouble foreign claims were occasioning him, issued very stringent orders to the Governors of the provinces to compel debtors to pay, and to imprison those who failed to satisfy the claims preferred against them. Many of the latter were sent to the Court at Mequinez, and there imprisoned, and the relatives of deceased or absconding debtors were arrested and held responsible for their debts.

* See Case 1 in Consul Payton's Report.

I am compelled to transmit to your Lordship the Report of Mr. Payton in original, as it is necessarily very lengthy, and I have not the means of having it copied without detaining it too long a time.

I further transmit to your Lordship a copy of Mr. Payton's despatch reporting upon his inspection of the Vice-Consulates under his supervision.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HORACE P. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 7.

Consul Payton to Mr. White.

Sir,

Mogador, September 19, 1884.

WITH reference to the correspondence as marked in the margin,* I have the honour to transmit herewith my Report in connection with the investigation which I have been holding at Daralbaida, from which port I arrived here on the afternoon of the 17th instant.

You will observe that, in accordance, I think, with the spirit of my instructions, I have by no means confined my inquiry simply to the cases or charges which have been brought under the notice of Her Majesty's Legation, or under mine, by Captain Rolleston, of the "Globe," Mr. Meakin, of the "Times of Morocco," or Captain Cobb, the United States' Vice-Consul at Daralbaida.

With reference to the latter gentleman, although I met him on the day of my arrival at Daralbaida, and although he was made aware of the purpose for which I had come, and that I was prepared to give attention to any statements or evidence which might be put before me by him or by others, he refrained, during the whole of my stay, from putting before me any such statements or evidence.

I will now proceed to comment briefly on the various cases on which I have reported.

Case 1.—El Arby Ben Abd El Aziz. This is a case in which I think that Vice-Consul Lapeen ought to have acted more energetically in taking prompt measures to obtain the release of an innocent man from an incarceration which was the result of Mr. Lapeen's carelessness with regard to the document.

Case 2.—El Matee Stooke. In consequence of the connection of this case with the preceding one, in which Mr. Lapeen probably saw that he had been to blame, and agitated no doubt by the attacks of Captain Rolleston, Vice-Consul Lapeen appears to have given a release to a man who was really owing him a considerable sum, and who has great reason to be thankful to Captain Rolleston and Captain Cobb, their action having resulted in the obtaining of a quittance which he was by no means entitled to claim.

Case 3.—Solomon-El-Mush Ali. The imprisonment of this man, being in consequence of the Sultan's orders to the local authorities, no blame would appear to attach to Mr. Lapeen in this matter; nor in

Case 4.—The imprisonment of Cid-El-Meloodi-ben-Mohamed for his brother-in-law's debt, not to Mr. Lapeen, but to the British subject, G. Pons.

Case 5.—The imprisonment of Selam Garbowi, alias Abdeslam-bel-Arby Saheli, &c., was in consequence of an extensive robbery committed by him on his employer, Mr. Pons aforesaid, and Mr. Lapeen appears quite free from blame in this matter.

Case 6.—David Benchimon, Moses Benhacon, and other Rabat Jews, imprisoned in consequence of Mr. Lapeen's claims, which were sent up against them for the original amounts of their indebtedness, instead of the amounts remaining actually due.

It seems that this practice, which cannot be too strongly condemned, of sending up to Government lists of original amounts as "outstandings" in cases where payments on account have been made, is by no means confined to Mr. Lapeen, but appears to be the general practice at Daralbaida.

It arose no doubt from the prevalence of the idea that European claims were to be paid by the Sultan, and very probably at the large discount of 50 per cent. on the amounts claimed; but as, under the present system of the Moorish Government

* Legation:—No. 30, August 20, August 21, and September 10, 1884. Mogador:—No. 55, September 3, September 3, September 6, and September 15, 1884.

enforcing payment from the debtors or their relatives, the sending up of the amounts of original debts, with no deductions for payments on account, may evidently be productive of injustice and cruelty to the debtors, it seems advisable that British Consular officers should be enjoined to state in their lists of claims their own and those of other British subjects only the amounts actually remaining due, and that the Moorish Government be requested only to enforce payment of such outstandings.

Case 7.—Cid Mohamed-bel-Hashmy needs, I think, no further comments than those which are found in my Report.

Case 8.—The same applies to that of Cid Mohamed Johari Fassy, in which I have failed to discover any reason for repudiating the final settlement which was made before the Governor of Daralbaida.

Case 9.—Mariam Azoalay's alleged imprisonment for debt of deceased husband and son, Mr. Lapeen appears to have had nothing to do with this imprisonment, and shows himself quite willing to forego the claim if the woman is in distressed circumstances.

Case 10.—Ten men reported sent in chains from Mzab to Mequinez on account of claims of Mr. Lapeen.

I have taken steps to obtain further particulars as to this statement, for which, up to the present time, I have discovered no foundation. (This was the only fresh case brought before me by Captain Rolleston after his arrival at Daralbaida on the 14th instant.)

Case 11.—Haim Hatchwell. I see no reason for going into this affair afresh, or repudiating the release in full for all claims which he gave to Mr. Lapeen.

Case 12.—Hadja Aisa. Mr. Lapeen immediately acquiesced in my recommendation that the affair be submitted to a fresh arbitration.

Case 13.—Debtors sent to Mequinez. I cannot but think that this system is productive of great and unnecessary cruelty to the debtor, and of no advantage to the creditor, and trust that you will see, in the various cases which have been reported upon, sufficient evidence of this to warrant an appeal to the Moorish Government for its discontinuance.

If debtors must be imprisoned, let them be imprisoned in their own districts, where their relatives can bring them food, and where they are near their creditors, in case the latter should relent, or in case friends or relatives should be able to arrange settlements by instalments or guarantees.

With reference to Case No. 6 of this list and similar cases, I may remark that many claimants fully realize the harshness and injustice of making relatives pay or suffer imprisonment for absconding debtors; but they somewhat naturally say that they ask, through their Legation, the Moorish Government to enforce the payment of their claims; and if the Moorish Government adopts those measures, harsh though they may be, it is not for them, the creditors, to quarrel with or reject measures adopted for their benefit. Moreover, with regard to this system, and to the sending of debtors to Mequinez, though philanthropists may inveigh against the cruelty of such proceedings, there are many British claimants who are always ready to clamour for the enforcement of their claims by all possible means, and far more likely to complain of the liberation of a debtor than of his incarceration, so that the position of a British Consular officer in Morocco is at the present day a somewhat difficult one.

It is gratifying to note that Mr. Lapeen, in Case No. 6, on List 13, voluntarily gave a quittance to the imprisoned brother-in-law of his debtor, also that I obtained from Mr. J. Natale a release for the man Hadj-el-Wadoudi, against whom Mr. Natale had no proof.

Neither of these cases were brought under my notice, either by Captain Rolleston or by the United States' Vice-Consul.

From all I heard during my stay at Daralbaida, I came to the conclusion that the origin of the charges brought against Mr. Lapeen in the columns of the "Globe" and elsewhere was to be found in a regrettable feeling of personal animosity on the part of the United States' Vice-Consul, Captain Cobb; and that although I could not exonerate Vice-Consul Lapeen from all blame in the case of El Arby-ben-Abd-el-Aziz and of the Rabat Jews, it appeared that his practice in the latter case was the same as that followed by other European residents of Daralbaida with reference to their claims on Moorish subjects.

In returning herewith the various letters and documents which I received from Her Majesty's Legation in the despatch of the 20th August last, I have the honour to call your attention to the "Note of outstandings held in the neighbourhood of Daralbaida, by J. Lapeen," and to his "Note of outstandings by Jews in the neighbour-

hood of Rabat and Daralbaida," in which lists I have made, or caused Mr. Lapeen to make, notes of debts settled, of balances actually owing, &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. A. PAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 7.

Observations of Sir J. Drummond Hay upon Consul Payton's Report on the Charges preferred against Vice-Consul Lapeen.

I CONCUR with the opinions of Mr. White as expressed in his despatch of the 30th September, and also with the observations made in the margin of that despatch and inclosure at the Foreign Office.

Though I consider that Mr. Payton has conducted the inquiry in an able and satisfactory manner, I think he has taken rather a lenient view of Mr. Lapeen's conduct.

Case No. 1 is a manifest case of injustice, and I am of opinion that compensation is due to the innocent Moor, El Arby-ben-Abd-el-Aziz, who was imprisoned for thirty-five days. If Her Majesty's Government coincide with this opinion, I would suggest that I be instructed to fix the amount which, after inquiry, may be considered fair, according to the social position of Abd-el-Aziz, and that Mr. Lapeen be directed to pay it; 2 dollars a-day, or 70 dollars *in toto*, will probably be the award.

Mr. Payton observes that it is the practice at Daralbaida (and I may add at all the Moorish ports) for foreign subjects to present claims to their respective Consular officers or Legations of an unjust character, and that the Moorish Government has been required to enforce payment without proper investigation; but such malpractices cannot be accepted as an excuse for the conduct of a British Vice-Consul.

I am of opinion that Mr. Lapeen should be informed that his services as British Vice-Consul are no longer required, and that a fit person be selected to succeed him. I may add that, setting aside the present charges, I have grounds for being dissatisfied with Mr. Lapeen's general conduct in past years.

The disapproval of Mr. Lapeen's conduct and his removal from office will, I am persuaded, produce a salutary effect not only upon the mind of the Moorish Government, but also in checking the commission of injustice on the part of British and other foreign subjects towards Moorish debtors, who have suffered much cruelty and injustice from the action of foreign Legations and Consulates, owing to the pressure which has been brought to bear upon the Moorish Government to obtain a liquidation of such claims.

Considering the acts of injustice which have been proved as regards certain debtors to Vice-Consul Lapeen, I concur with the suggestion of Mr. White, in his despatch of the 30th September, that when payment of the claims of British subjects is effected, the claims of Mr. Lapeen and of other British subjects at Daralbaida should receive a careful investigation before the money recovered is delivered to them.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

October 17, 1884.

P.S.—As Mr. White has not kept a copy of Mr. Payton's Report, it is requested that it be returned to Tangier.

J. H. D. H.

No. 8.

M. Waddington to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

(Confidential.)

My dear Granville,

London, October 11, 1884.

ACCORDING to your wish, I wrote to M. Ferry about the "Gaulois" incident. The answer, of which I inclose a copy, was sent to Lord Lyons on the 10th June last, and appears never to have reached you. I am authorized to add that you may make any use you think fitting of the declarations contained in the verbal note.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) WADDINGTON.

Inclosure in No. 8.

M. Ferry to Viscount Lyons.

LE Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, aussitôt après avoir reçu la note verbale que son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre lui a fait l'honneur de lui adresser à la date du 26 Mai dernier, a communiqué la teneur de ce document au Ministre de France à Tanger, en l'invitant à fournir des explications au sujet des allégations contenues dans le journal "Le Gaulois" du 8 Mai.

Dès que M. Ordega, à son arrivée à Tanger, a su que l'on avait pu ajouter quelque créance à ces assertions, il a transmis par le télégraphe au Département des Affaires Étrangères le démenti suivant destiné à être inséré dans le journal qui l'avait mis en cause :—

"Pour 'Le Gaulois.'"

"On me signale à mon retour au Maroc deux articles du 'Gaulois' des 8 et 10 Mai contenant un exposé de déclarations que j'aurais faites à M. le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères sur la question du Maroc et sur le Corps Diplomatique à Tanger.

"Je tiens à faire savoir que je n'ai pas tenu le langage qui m'est attribué dans ces deux articles. Des motifs de convenance et de discrétion professionnelle s'opposaient d'ailleurs à ce que je divulgasse les entretiens que j'avais pu avoir avec le Ministre.

"Je vous prie d'insérer cette dépêche dans votre plus prochain numéro.
(Signé) "ORDÉGA."

Je ne doute pas que le Ministre de France au Maroc n'ait déjà exprimé à ses collègues à Tanger sa surprise et son regret pour les propos qu'on lui prêtait et ne leur ait donné les explications désirables. Aujourd'hui, il me semble que la publication du télégramme de M. Ordega n'aurait d'autre résultat que de renouveler une fâcheuse polémique, qui est heureusement apaisée.

C'est par ces motifs que M. Ferry n'a pas cru devoir l'envoyer au "Gaulois," estimant que la présente communication suffirait à clore l'incident. Il espère que Lord Lyons voudra bien se ranger à sa manière de voir.
Paris, le 10 Juin, 1884.

No. 9.

M. Waddington to Earl Granville.—(Received October 13.)

M. le Comte,

VOTRE Seigneurie a bien voulu me faire savoir par sa lettre en date du 21 Juillet dernier (qui m'est parvenue seulement le 23 Août), que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine acceptait les propositions du Gouvernement Tunisien relativement aux garanties à offrir, après la suppression de la Commission Financière, aux porteurs de coupons d'intérêts non-convertis. Votre Seigneurie demandait toutefois que le Consul d'Angleterre pût exercer par délégué son droit de contrôle sur le prélèvement du 5 pour cent des droits de douane au profit des porteurs de ces coupons.

Suivant les instructions que vient de m'envoyer M. Jules Ferry, j'ai l'honneur de faire connaître à votre Seigneurie que le Gouvernement du Bey ne voit aucun inconvénient à ce que la vérification dont il s'agit soit opérée par le Consul lui-même ou par un délégué. L'autorité Tunisienne a pris, dès maintenant, des dispositions en conséquence. De plus, la Direction des Finances Beylicales va faire déposer à la Banque de France une valeur de 500,000 fr. en titres Français 3 pour cent, dépôt qui, avec le contrôle des autorités Consulaires, formera la garantie des porteurs de bons de coupons arriérés.

Veillez, &c.
(Signé) WADDINGTON.

No. 10.

Earl Granville to M. Waddington.

(Confidential.)

Dear Waddington,

Walmer Castle, Deal, October 14, 1884.

THE despatch of the 10th June which you were good enough to send me had reached me at the time, but was followed later by a despatch from Lord Lyons of the 6th August, which seems to have been overlooked by M. Ferry, and of which I send you a copy.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 11.

Earl Granville to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(Private.)

Dear Sir John,

Walmer Castle, October 17, 1884.

MY reason for not yet answering your letter was that I have been, and am still, in communication with Waddington on the subject of it. I shall be glad to see you in the course of next week at the Foreign Office.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 12.

Earl Granville to M. Waddington.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Foreign Office, October 17, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 9th instant, stating that the Government of the Bey of Tunis has no objection to the exercise of control by Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General, or by a delegate appointed by him, over the collection of the 5 per cent. tax on the customs duties levied in favour of the holders of Tunisian bonds, and that a sum of 1,500,000l. in French bonds has been deposited at the Banque de France as a guarantee to holders of Tunisian bonds in arrear.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 13.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Mr. Lister.—(Received October 18.)

Dear Mr. Lister,

St. George's Hotel, October 18, 1884.

WHEN I was at the Foreign Office yesterday I spoke to the Chief Clerks of the Commercial and Consular Departments regarding the claims of British subjects, and I was unable to ascertain which is the special Department encharged with such matters, but Mr. Anderson suggested that I should send in a Memorandum on the subject.

Following this suggestion I inclose the accompanying Memorandum. I shall probably call at the Foreign Office on Monday between 4 and 5, and will ask to see you. I leave England on the 22nd instant.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

P.S.—I hope the corrections in the Memorandum may be excused, for I have not the time to recopy it.

J. H. D. H.

Memorandum respecting pending Claims of British subjects upon Moorish subjects.

IN 1882, when I visited the Moorish Court, having heard that the Sultan had agreed to liquidate the claims of French citizens on Moorish subjects, I requested that the claims of British subjects should be placed on as favourable a footing as the French claims. This was agreed to by His Shereefian Majesty, but as British claimants had not provided me with the documentary evidence required in support of such claims, I called upon British creditors to present them at the Legation at Tangier.

A delay of several months in the collection and presentation of these claims occurred, and an informal proposal was made by the Moorish Government to liquidate these claims on a deduction of 50 per cent., as it was alleged that an abatement had been made of French claims on the Moorish Government.

British creditors were disposed to accept this proposal, but when the Italian and United States' Representatives heard of the probability of an arrangement being effected, they demanded that the claims of all persons under their respective protection should be liquidated by the Moorish Government without reference to the abatement agreed upon by the British creditors. The Sultan then altered his mind, and declined to effect the payment of British claims through the Moorish Treasury. British creditors were then required to present their documentary evidence of claims to Commissioners sent by the Sultan to investigate the claims of British, Italian, and United States' subjects. The Italian Government, in the summer of last year, dispatched a squadron to demand the settlement of the claims of Italian subjects, and it was arranged between the Italian and Moorish Plenipotentiaries that the claims should be investigated by Commissioners, and, when proved by notarial evidence, coercive measures were to be adopted by the Moorish authorities against the debtors to recover payment. A similar understanding was come to by me regarding the claims of British subjects.

Her Majesty's Government have been kept informed of all the steps I have taken regarding these claims since 1882, but I am unable to refer to the numbers or dates of the several despatches I or Mr. White have addressed Her Majesty's Government upon this subject. The Commissioners examined the claims of British subjects and rejected many, from the evidence not being, as they alleged, legal or of a satisfactory character.

The claims which had passed were forwarded by the Commissioners to the Moorish Court, and I was informed that orders had been sent to the Governors of the provinces to compel the debtors to pay, or in default, that they should be arrested and sent prisoners to Mequez, where the Sultan at that time resided. When I left Tangier last August I had only heard of two or three British creditors having received payment, but it was reported that numbers of Moorish and Jewish debtors had been arrested and sent in chains to the prison at Mequez. It is rumoured that the Governors have on some occasions seized and confiscated the property of debtors to British subjects, but have retained the assets for their own private purposes.

Before I left Tangier I held very decided language to the Acting Minister and to one of the Commissioners who still remained there, regarding the delay that had taken place in the settlement of these claims, and I informed them that if a settlement was not effected before I returned it would give rise to an expression of dissatisfaction on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

I learn from late private letters addressed to me by Mr. White, that only one British creditor has received payment since I left, but on the other hand it is reported that several of the claims of protected Italian subjects have been paid. The fact of the Italian Government having sent last year a squadron to support Italian claims, has no doubt produced a strong effect upon the minds of Moorish functionaries who are charged with the collection of these debts. Taking into consideration that I have informed the Moorish Government that they would incur the displeasure of Her Majesty's Government if it came to their knowledge that the promises made have not been fulfilled, whilst French and Italian claims have for the most part been settled, I have to suggest that a despatch be addressed to me in such a form as would strengthen my hands; for though I have resorted to energetic language in support of British claims, and am prepared to repeat the language I have held, the effect which may be produced by reading a despatch from Her Majesty's Government, or of communicating extracts with comments of my own, would be much greater.

It is a perplexing task to deal with claims in Morocco, which are too often of an

usurious character or even unjust, as will be learnt on a perusal of Mr. Payton's Report on the claims of British subjects at Daralbaida, especially as the Moorish Government, when acting under pressure, give orders for arbitrary and even cruel measures to be adopted, and therefore in any representation I have to make I have to blow hot and cold, i.e., to require on the one hand, that the claims of British subjects be placed on an equal footing with those of other foreign subjects, but at the same time, on the other hand, to express our abhorrence of acts of cruelty or of extreme penalties being imposed on debtors, which other foreign Legations and Consulates pass unnoticed, or even encourage; but should decided steps not be taken to bring about a settlement of these claims, great dissatisfaction will be felt by British claimants, and my conduct will be unfavourably contrasted in local and other journals with that of other foreign Representatives.

In case the claims of British subjects are not liquidated within a reasonable term, I should wish to be informed whether I should require the Moorish Government to pay those claims that have not been settled as they had been required to do when French citizens have been creditors.

I avow I have been reluctant hitherto to insist on such a course, as it would be establishing an untoward precedent which hereafter may entail questions and much trouble.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

October 18, 1884.

No. 14.

Viscount Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 610.)

My Lord,

Paris, October 16, 1884.

THE day before yesterday, on seeing M. Jules Ferry for the first time after my return to Paris, I spoke to him of the calumnious language respecting Sir John Drummond Hay used in the "Gaulois" newspaper in the month of May last, and of the application I had made that publicity should be given to M. Ordega's denial of his having been the author of it.

I told M. Ferry that your Lordship had recently been in communication with M. Waddington on the subject.

M. Jules Ferry asked me whether the *note verbale* he had sent to me in the month of June had not been satisfactory to your Lordship.

I answered that his Excellency could have no doubt on this point, because I had addressed to him on the 6th August last, under instructions from your Lordship, a *note verbale*, commenting upon the note I had received from him, in which, pointing out that Sir John Drummond Hay had not received explanations of any kind from M. Ordega, I again urged the propriety of giving publicity to the denial of that gentleman, that he had used the language attributed to him in the "Gaulois."

M. Waddington had, I said, suggested in a communication to your Lordship that I might have omitted to communicate to you M. Ferry's note of June. This, however, was of course an entire mistake. I had sent a copy of it to your Lordship the day I received it, and, as I had just said, had addressed on the 6th August to M. Ferry himself, by your Lordship's order, a note acknowledging it and commenting upon it.

To that note I had not yet received an answer, and I must beg M. Ferry to allow me to repeat the request contained in it, that publicity might be given to M. Ordega's denial.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 15.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 44.)

My Lord,

Tunis, October 6, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to report that, by Beylical Decree published in the "Tunisian Official Journal" of the 2nd instant, notice is given to the effect that the Finance Commission and Administration of Conceded Revenues, instituted, the former by Decree of the 5th July, 1869, and the latter by international arrangement dating the

23rd March, 1870, will cease to exist on Sunday the 12th of the present month, and that the administration and control of the public revenues will thenceforth come under the control and direction of a number of French officials, of whom the head or chief will have the title of "Directeur des Finances."

A copy of the "Official Journal" above mentioned I beg herewith to transmit.
I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure in No. 15.

Extract from the "Journal Officiel Tunisien" of October 2, 1884.

Décret du 13 Hidjé, 1301 (2 Octobre, 1884).

Louanges à Dieu.

VU le Décret du 23 Hidjé, 1299, instituant la Direction des Finances;
Considérant que notre Décret du 2 Châban, 1301 (27 Mai, 1884), qui a autorisé la conversion ou le remboursement de la Dette Générale Tunisienne, 5 pour cent, a été mis en exécution; que l'opération de conversion est aujourd'hui terminée et que l'opération de remboursement, commencée depuis le 1^{er} Octobre courant, se poursuit régulièrement et est complètement assurée;

Considérant que, dans cette situation, les garanties accordées aux créanciers de cette dette n'ont plus de raison d'être, de même que les institutions créées par notre prédécesseur pour en assurer l'exécution;

Après nous être assuré de l'assentiment du Gouvernement Français.
Nous avons pris le Décret suivant:—

Article 1^{er}. La Commission Financière instituée par le Décret du 5 Juillet, 1869, et le Conseil d'Administration des Revenus Concédés, créé par l'Arrangement du 23 Mars, 1870, cesseront d'exister le 12 Octobre, 1884, sous la réserve prévue à l'Article 4 ci-après.

En conséquence le Conseil d'Administration des Revenus Concédés devra le 12 Octobre, 1884, au soir, faire la remise de son service dans toutes les agences, soit à la Direction des Douanes, soit à la Direction des Contributions diverses, soit au Receveur-Général des Finances.

Les valeurs en caisse autre que les papiers timbrés, de même que les cautionnements des agents et des fermiers seront versés: à Tunis et à la Goulette à la caisse du Receveur-Général des Finances, partout ailleurs, entre les mains des employés des Douanes, qui prendront la gestion de l'agence.

Les papiers timbrés seront remis: à Tunis, au Receveur Principal des Contributions diverses; dans les autres localités, aux agents des Douanes en même temps que les autres valeurs.

Art. 2. En conséquence, les revenus publics concédés aux créanciers par l'arrangement précité seront, à partir de cette époque, perçus pour le Trésor Beylical, en tenant compte toutefois des dispositions insérées au paragraphe 3 de l'Article 5 du Décret du 2 Châban, 1301 (27 Mai, 1884).

Art. 3. Les Décrets des 3 Djoumadi-el-Aoual, 1300 (12 Mars, 1883), et 19 Sfar, 1301 (19 Décembre, 1883), seront applicables à tous les revenus de l'État.

Art. 4. Le Comité Exécutif de la Commission Financière sera chargé provisoirement, jusqu'à ce que de nouvelles mesures aient été ordonnées, de l'instruction de toutes les affaires rentrant dans les attributions de la Commission et qui sont actuellement en cours, et de prendre à leur sujet telle décision qu'il jugera convenable.

Il sera également appelé à statuer sur toutes les réclamations et litiges qu'il a reçu pouvoir de résoudre avant la date du présent Décret, et à présider à la liquidation des comptes à rendre par le Conseil d'Administration des Revenus Concédés.

Art. 5. La Direction des Finances percevra tous les revenus de la Régence. Les poursuites seront faites, s'il y a lieu, directement par le Directeur des Finances ou en son nom.

Art. 6. Indépendamment des attributions qui lui sont conférées par notre Décret du 23 Hidjé, 1299, le Directeur des Finances aura notamment sous son autorité un

Directeur des Contributions diverses et un Directeur des Douanes. Il déterminera par Arrêté les attributions de chacune des Directions des Contributions et des Douanes.

Art. 7. Les Directeurs des Contributions et des Douanes et le Receveur-Général des Finances auront le pouvoir de poursuivre devant toute autorité judiciaire ou administrative au nom du Directeur des Finances, les instances intéressant leurs services et de faire signifier tous actes de poursuites.

C'est à eux qu'il appartiendra de suivre, chacun dans les limites de ses attributions, l'instruction des affaires non terminées, engagées avant le 13 Octobre, 1884, auprès du Conseil d'Administration des Revenus Concédés et d'adresser, s'il y a lieu, leur avis, proposition, ou décision sur ces affaires au Comité Exécutif dans le cas où il sera appelé à statuer en vertu des dispositions de l'Article 4 du présent Décret.

Art. 8. Le Directeur des Finances est nommé par nous sur la présentation du Ministre Résident de la République Française à Tunis.

Seront nommés par Décrets, sur la proposition du Directeur des Finances;

Le Sous-Directeur des Finances;

Les Directeurs des Contributions diverses et des Douanes;

Les Chefs de Division et de Bureau de la Direction des Finances;

Les Inspecteurs de la Direction des Finances et des Services Financiers;

Le Receveur-Général des Finances;

L'Interprète Principal de la Direction des Finances;

Le Receveur Principal des Contributions diverses;

Le Receveur Principal des Douanes;

L'Administrateur des Domaines;

Le Directeur de la Ghaba;

Le Directeur de la Monnaie;

Le Directeur de la Rabta.

Art. 9. Seront nommés par arrêtés du Directeur des Finances;

Les employés de la Direction des Finances, des Domaines, de la Ghaba, de la Monnaie, et de la Rabta;

Les premiers commis de Direction, les Sous-Inspecteurs, Contrôleurs, Interprètes, Receveurs et Chefs d'Agence, les Contrôleurs Principaux des marchés, et généralement tous les employés dont le traitement sera de 3,000 piastres ou supérieur à ce chiffre.

Les notaires attachés aux Services Financiers seront également nommés par le Directeur des Finances.

Art. 10. Tous les employés dont le traitement sera inférieur à 3,000 piastres et qui appartiendront aux Services des Directions des Contributions et des Douanes seront nommés par les Directeurs de ces Services.

Art. 11. Les règles tracées par les Articles 7, 8, et 9 du présent Décret pour les nominations aux emplois seront également suivies dans les cas où il deviendrait nécessaire de procéder à des révocations ou de prendre des mesures disciplinaires.

Art. 12. Les employés des fermes des revenus publics seront nommés par les fermiers. Cependant les débitants de poudre, de tabac, et de sel et les agents qui pourront être appelés à constater des contraventions seront nommés, sur la proposition du fermier, et révoqués par l'autorité à laquelle ce droit aura été ou sera conféré.

Art. 13. Le Receveur-Général des Finances à Tunis est désigné pour payer à partir du 13 Octobre, 1884, en se conformant aux règles de la comptabilité publique, savoir:—

1. Les coupons de la Dette Générale 4 pour cent qui seront présentés en Tunisie.

2. Tous les coupons ou fractions de coupons échus et non prescrits restant à payer de l'ancienne dette 5 pour cent, étant observé toutefois qu'en ce qui concerne les fractions de coupons Nos. 17, 18, 19, 22, et 23 qui n'auront pas été présentées à la conversion autorisée par notre Décret précité du 2 Châban, 1301, le paiement ne pourra en être effectué par lui qu'à dater du 25 Octobre, 1884, date à partir de laquelle cesse l'engagement des souscripteurs de l'Emprunt 4 pour cent de faire procéder eux-mêmes à ce remboursement.

3. Tous les certificats de coupons antérieurs à 1870, sortis aux différents tirages.

4. Tous les titres de la Dette Générale Tunisienne 5 pour cent qui, au 25 Octobre courant, n'auront pas été remboursés par les souscripteurs de l'emprunt; le paiement des certificats et des titres pourra être opéré tant que ces certificats ou titres ne seront pas atteints par la prescription édictée par l'Article 43 de notre Décret du 2 Djoumadi-el-Aoual, 1300.

5. Toutes les dépenses qui appartiendront au compte de liquidation qui sera ouvert au Conseil d'Administration des Revenus Concédés.

Le Directeur des Finances :

Vu le Décret du 13 Hidjé, 1301 (2 Octobre, 1884), dont l'Article 6 est ainsi conçu :—

“Indépendamment des attributions qui lui sont conférées par notre Décret du 23 Hidjé, 1299, le Directeur des Finances aura notamment sous son autorité un Directeur des Contributions diverses et un Directeur des Douanes. Il déterminera par un Arrêté les attributions de chacune des Directions des Contributions diverses et des Douanes ;”

Arrête :

Article 1^{er}. La Direction des Contributions diverses régit, au nom du Directeur des Finances, les monopoles et privilèges de l'État, tels que ceux relatifs à la culture, à la fabrication, et à la vente du tabac,—à l'extraction ou à la fabrication et à la vente du sel,—à la fabrication et à la vente du plâtre,—à la vente des poudres de mines et de chasse ;

L'établissement de Dar-el-Geld, lorsque la libre disposition en reviendra au Gouvernement.

La même Direction est chargée de la perception des produits de ces monopoles et privilèges et, en outre, de la régie et de la perception des impôts, produits et revenus suivants :

Droits de timbre,—Karoubé sur les ventes d'immeubles,—Karoubé sur les loyers revenant à l'État—droits sur les céréales aux portes et aux marchés, y compris ceux de mesurage ;

Redevances pour concessions de mines—locations des places et magasins dans les marchés publics, non compris ceux du fondouk des huiles de Tunis—location des silos dans les huileries domaniales non amodiées ;

Poids Publics.

Droits sur la fabrication et la vente de la chaux et des briques à Tunis ;

Droits sur la fabrication et le poinçonnage des matières d'or et d'argent ;

Droits sur les changeurs de monnaie ;

Droits sur la fabrication du savon et sur la distillation ;

Marché au charbon de Tunis ;

Foulon de chechias ;

Droits sur la vente des laines non perçus par Dar el Geld ;

Amendes et condamnations relatives au Service des Contributions ;

Et en général tous les droits connus sous le nom de Mahsoulates et tous les droits et créances de diverses natures et origines ne se rattachant pas naturellement aux attributions d'un autre service.

La même Direction est chargée de procéder aux tirages semestriels des certificats de coupons de l'ancienne dette antérieurs à 1870, le paiement des certificats sortis demeurant réservé au Receveur-Général des Finances.

Les Receveurs et Collecteurs de cette Administration sont, en ce qui concerne la comptabilité, directement subordonnés au Receveur Principal qui centralise les opérations en recette et en dépense et qui est directement responsable envers le Trésor et justiciable de la Cour des Comptes.

Dans les cinq premiers jours de chaque mois, le Receveur Principal fournit à la Direction des Finances, par l'intermédiaire du Directeur des Contributions diverses qui le vise après vérification, le bordereau des recettes et des dépenses du mois précédent.

Dans les quinze premiers jours de chaque trimestre, il fournit dans les mêmes conditions un état détaillé de l'ensemble des produits budgétaires, présentant le montant, depuis le premier jour de l'exercice, des constatations des recettes et des restes à recouvrer.

La forme des comptes annuels est réglée par des instructions spéciales.

En cas de constatation ou de présomption grave d'infidélité, le Directeur des Contributions diverses peut fermer provisoirement les mains à tout comptable sous ses ordres, à charge d'en rendre compte immédiatement au Directeur des Finances.

Article 2.—La Direction des Douanes a dans ses attributions, sous l'autorité du

Directeur des Finances, la régie et la perception des impôts, produits et revenus suivants :

Droits de douane à l'importation et à l'exportation en principal et accessoires divers ;

Droits sur les vins et spiritueux ;

Droits de transports et de magasinage des marchandises embarquées et débarquées à la diligence de la Douane—produit de la vente des marchandises abandonnées dans les magasins de la Douane, droits de port, droits sanitaires ;

Pêcheries et droits sur la vente du poisson ;

Amendes et condamnations relatives au service de la Douane.

Jusqu'à ce qu'il en soit autrement ordonné, dans toutes les localités autres que Tunis, le Directeur des Douanes percevra directement par des agents les impôts, produits et revenus attribués par le présent Arrêté à la Direction des Contributions diverses. Il n'est fait exception que pour le produit des affermage qui seraient stipulés payables à Tunis, à la Caisse du Receveur Principal des Contributions diverses.

En ces matières la solution des difficultés et la suite des instances sont déferées par la Direction des Douanes à celle des Contributions diverses.

Pour ce qui concerne la comptabilité, les Receveurs et Collecteurs sont directement subordonnés du Receveur Principal qui centralise leurs opérations en recette et en dépense et qui est directement responsable envers le Trésor et justiciable de la Cour des Comptes.

Dans les vingt premiers jours de chaque mois, le Receveur Principal fournit à la Direction des Finances, par l'intermédiaire du Directeur des Douanes, qui le vise après vérification, le bordereau des recettes et des dépenses du mois précédent.

Dans les vingt-cinq premiers jours de chaque trimestre, il fournit dans les mêmes conditions un état détaillé de l'ensemble des produits budgétaires présentant le montant, depuis le 1^{er} jour de l'exercice, des constatations, des recettes et des restes à recouvrer.

La forme des comptes annuels est réglée par des instructions spéciales.

Le Receveur Principal est autorisé à délivrer, dans les conditions à déterminer par un Règlement spécial, des traites sur les caisses des Receveurs qui lui sont subordonnés.

En cas de constatation ou de présomption grave d'infidélité, le Directeur des Douanes peut fermer provisoirement les mains à tout comptable sous ses ordres, à charge d'en rendre compte immédiatement au Directeur des Finances.

Article 3. Le Directeur des Contributions diverses et le Directeur des Douanes sont ordonnateurs secondaires des dépenses de leurs Services respectifs, dans les limites des crédits qui leur sont répartis et sous-délégés par le Directeur des Finances.

Article 4. Tout droit ou toute créance du Trésor exigible avant le 13 Octobre courant et dont l'apurement ou le recouvrement est confié à l'Administration des Revenus Concédés sera régi par la Direction des Contributions diverses ou celle des Douanes, suivant qu'elle rentrera dans les attributions de l'une d'elles, telles qu'elles sont définies par les Articles précédents.

Le Receveur-Général des Finances demeure seul chargé d'apurer les reliquats des régies ou fermages des Mahsoulates dont le recouvrement a été placé jusqu'à ce jour dans ses attributions et qui seront acquis antérieurement au 13 Octobre courant.

Article 5. Indépendamment des contrôles, perceptions et encaissements directs qui lui ont été confiés jusqu'à ce jour, et que le présent Arrêté ne distraie pas de ses attributions, le Receveur-Général des Finances est chargé de tout le service de la Trésorerie.

Il reçoit les versements des sommes encaissées par les Gouverneurs ou Caïds, par les Administrateurs des Domaines de l'État, par la Direction de la Rabta et par tous autres percepteurs ou collecteurs directs de la Direction des Finances.

Il reçoit aussi les versements des produits encaissés par les Receveurs Principaux des Contributions diverses et des Douanes pour l'ensemble de leurs Directions respectives.

Le Receveur-Général centralise les opérations en recette et en dépense de tous les Percepteurs directs de la Direction des Finances. Il est de plus, responsable de la gestion du Directeur de la Rabta.

Il établit et fournit à la Direction les mêmes bordereaux mensuels et états

trimestriels de situation, que les Receveurs Principaux des Contributions diverses et des Douanes.

Article 6. Les comptables de la Direction des Finances, de la Direction des Contributions diverses, et de la Direction des Douanes verseront pour la garantie de leurs gestions, un cautionnement à déterminer ultérieurement.

Article 7. Les Directeurs des Contributions diverses et des Douanes et le Receveur-Général des Finances correspondent directement avec les Caïds et Gouverneurs des divers territoires pour la suite des affaires comprises dans leurs attributions.

(Signé) P. DEPIENNE.

Tunis, le 2 Octobre, 1884.

No. 16.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 45.)

My Lord,

Tunis, October 9, 1884.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 44 of the 6th, and the abrogation by Beylical Decree of the Finance Commission which has hitherto administered the revenue and public accounts of this Regency, I have the honour to inclose an impression of the "Journal Officiel" of the 4th instant, which contains a series of other Decrees relative to the future control and direction of the Tunisian exchequer.

By those Decrees authority is given for the establishment of an entirely new code of fiscal laws, and for the exercise by the newly-appointed functionaries of their respective offices.

Except that the new regulations are, generally speaking, more stringent in character than those for which they are substituted, no complaints regarding their enactment have reached me from parties whom they more directly concern.

Whether masters of vessels will be able without difficulty to escape all the penalties to which, so far as regards the port and customs regulations in respect of ships' manifests and other matters, [they are subjected?], has yet to be seen.

It is, however, satisfactory to know that, as set forth in Article 14 of the Customs Regulations, a foreign vessel cannot be visited by Customs or other officials at the Tunisian ports except with the sanction or assistance of the Consular Authority of the nation to which it belongs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 17.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 46.)

My Lord,

Tunis, October 13, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to report that M. Cambon returned to his post yesterday, arriving from France and Algeria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 18.

Mr. Pace to Earl Granville.—(Received October 27.)

My Lord,

Sfax, October 12, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 15th March, 1884, by which you kindly inform me that Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General has been requested to render me such assistance as may be necessary, if his intervention is required to enable me to institute judicial proceedings against the alleged murderers of my son, and provided that he is satisfied that there is a *prima facie* case against the person or persons whom I propose to prosecute.

After receipt of the above despatch, and in May last, a free passage having been granted me by the Transatlantic Steam Company I went to Tunis and presented a Petition to Mr. Reade, who consequently wrote to M. Bompert, the Bey's Minister, on

the matter, when the latter promised him that he would have given instructions to this Sub-Governor for holding a Court of Inquiry, after which I returned to Sfax.

Four months later, on seeing that no instructions had been received by this Sub-Governor (according to his statement), I wrote again to Mr. Reade a letter which was never answered, copy of which I beg to inclose herewith (Inclosure No. 1).

That Mr. Reade has twice presented my claims to the French authorities I do not deny it; but that they have in each instance been rejected, on the ground that the misfortune was caused by the imprudence of the deceased, who returned on shore after the general exodus of Europeans had taken place, and in this way met his death, I may be allowed to say the French authorities have been either badly informed, or they chose to say so, as it is clearly evident from the inclosed certified copy of a document bearing the signatures of twenty-two of the most respectable persons residing at Sfax (Inclosure No. 2).

My son's principal murderer is a certain Alia, son of the late Hadj Mohamed El Mezanni, who was the first to discharge a gun on my unfortunate son. This assassin, as well as some other companions of his, mentioned in the inclosed translation of an Act in Arabic, are walking with impunity about Sfax and boasting of having massacred a Kafer (Inclosure No. 3).

The scanty amount of compensation awarded me by the Indemnity Commission, I regret to say, was not even worth the value of my furniture, wearing apparel, and other things, and it is astonishing and beyond belief when they say that such an amount of compensation was awarded me in full satisfaction, i.e., for the pillage and plunder of my house and for my son's murder.

Under these circumstances, my Lord, seeing myself reduced to misery after the loss of my only support, besides my being an old man, there only remains for me to implore your Lordship's official support, and humbly beg for the last time you will have the kindness to order that more stringent instructions be given to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Tunis in order that he may more warmly represent again the matter before the Bey's Prime Minister, and urge him to give this Sub-Governor the promised and necessary instructions for holding the longed-for Court of Inquiry, and thus bring to an end this unfortunate and sad affair.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GIUSEPPE PACE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 18.

Mr. Pace to Mr. Reade.

Sfax, September 12, 1884.

Sir,

I FEEL it my duty to inform you that the instructions promised you in the month of May last by M. Bompert, the Bey's Prime Minister at Tunis, for holding a Court of Inquiry about the murder of my son, Ernesto Pace, have never been received by this Vice-Governor.

I humbly beg, therefore, to request your kind intervention again, and trust that you will have the goodness to bring the matter again before whom it may concern, in order that the proper and necessary instructions be given for the final decision of this long outstanding sad affair.

I have also to beg you will kindly instruct Mr. Leonardi to take down the evidence of those persons who voluntarily wish to depose concerning my case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GIUSEPPE PACE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 18.

Statement of Twenty-two Residents at Sfax.

NOI sottoscritti, a richiesta del Signor Giuseppe Pace, per quanto ci consta e nella massima parte per nostro fatto proprio, dichiariamo che il giorno 29 Giugno dell'anno 1881, data in cui venne orribilmente massacrato il di lui figlio Ernesto per mano degl'

insorti, ci trovavamo in questa città e che soltanto dopo l'avvenimento di sì truce accaduto c'imbarcammo per ricoverarci in rada.

(Pro Antonio Bugetto,
(Firmato) CARLO BARBARA.
[And 21 others.]

Sfax, li 7 Giugno, 1883.

Inclosure 3 in No. 18.

Translations of Depositions in Arabic.

NEL mese di Giugno scorso mi trovavo in Gabes, dove mi incontrai con uno dei miei testimonj a nome Selah, figlio di Mahmd il baram, cherchenino del villaggio Buali, e lo pregai di recarsi a Sfax per rilasciarmi la sua testimonianza. Risposemi che non poteva, trovandosi impiegato nell' Agenzia dei vapori Francesi, ma che sarebbe stato disposto di rilasciarmela colà.

Di fatti me la rilascio per mezzo di due notaj, debitamente legalizzata dal Cadi.

In detta testimonianza riferi che nel giorno dell' insurrezione de Sfax trovavasi alla marina sullo scalo di legno, dove vi erano molte persone, fra le quali riconobbe Hamed Melleh, mercante in su orbo, Muhammed Dris, Hag Hsin Trabelse Sta, Muhammed Lanteti Calzolajo, Hag Hmed il Miledi il Gerreja, mercante in su orbo, Muhammed Ben Hmida, Ben Giannet rais el hamdeni.

Che vide Ernesto mio figlio nascondersi sotto la prora di un sandale, sul quale salirono il nominato Chisceu, tradotto in seguito prigioniero in Tunisi, figlio di Hlima, lavorante in calcina, Ingiah cognato di Gerdac, Ammara figlio di Ali Ammara del villaggio Kriba, residente in Cherchena nel villaggio Ramela, e Muhammed Abdennader, fornaro, i quali malmenarono il mio povero figlio a colpi di bastone.

Sopraggiunti gli Arabi, i cinque delinquenti scesero dal sandale e si misero a gridare. Ecco qui il Cristiano! In quel mentre Ernesto, radunando le sue poche forze, scese dal sandale e si trascinò sotto lo scalo. All' esclamazione dei sudetti delinquenti, gli Arabi scaricarono le loro armi sopra di lui, lasciandolo cadavere.

In seguito a tale raccapricciante accaduto il sudetto Ammara, figlio di Ali Ammara, portò seco le provizioni che aveva il defunto, consistenti in un fazzoletto pieno di pane, un altro con mandorle, un fiasco pieno d'olio e diverse cartocci con olive ed altro, dopo di che rientrò in città dalla porta della Gebbi.

Il documento comprovante quanto sopra trovasi in mio potere.

Altri sei indigeni sono pronti a darmi la loro testimonianza contro gli Sfaxini che spararono contro il disgraziato mio figlio, specialmente contro il primo che tirò, il quale sarebbe stato secondo quanto mi hanno dichiarato in presenza di diversi Europei, certo Alia, figlio di Hag Muhammed el Meszanni, cognato del Vice-Governatore di Sfax, Hag Muhammed il Fendri.

No. 19.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 47.)
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 36 of the 23rd ultimo, respecting the dispute as to the plot of ground adjoining the English church in this city.

I regret very particularly to learn that some of the views I have felt it my duty to express in my past communications on this subject are not concurred in by your Lordship.

I venture, nevertheless, to trust that your Lordship will credit me with having acted to the best of my ability and in accordance with my own convictions in defence of what I conceived to be an unwarrantable attack on British interests of a peculiarly important character.

I do not believe any advantage is to be gained by prosecuting the matter further. The question being one which pertains exclusively to the jurisdiction of the local authority, the French Tribunals can do nothing. Their incompetency, as reported in my despatch No. 38 of the 6th August, has in fact been put beyond doubt by a declaration of the Procureur de la République.

Tunis, October 15, 1884.

On the other hand, to appear against M. Rouquerol as plaintiff would be to assume his possession of the ground to be legitimately and fairly acquired, and not the result of violence and defaulting.

I have made the purport of your Lordship's despatch known to Mr. Reichardt, the Chaplain, and pointed out to him that the trustees of the church have no option but to act in strict conformity with the views and instructions which your Lordship has been pleased to communicate to us.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 20.

Messrs. Dehn and Melchior to Earl Granville.—(Received October 29.)

47, Newton Street, Dale Street, Manchester,
October 28, 1884.

My Lord,

WE beg most respectfully to draw your Lordship's attention to the following.

In 1881, during the bombardment of Sfax and other places on the Tunisian coast by French war-ships, the stores and stocks, exceeding in value 10,000*l.* of our debtors, Haïm di Mordhai Haddad and Mordhai Haddad, have been entirely destroyed.

We are informed on reliable authority that His Highness the Bey of Tunis refuses to indemnify our debtors for the losses they have sustained, on the ground of their being merely Tunisian Jews and not Europeans.

Our clients, who are most honourable, and anxious to deal fairly with us, are thereby rendered unable to meet their debts.

They owe us, on their joint acceptances for goods furnished to them, the sum of 21,781 fr. 60 c., which would evidently turn out a complete loss to us, unless they get indemnified for the damage they have sustained.

We therefore beg most respectfully to approach your Lordship with a view of ascertaining whether Her Majesty's Government might think fit to take steps which would in any way further the settlement of our debtors' claim, so that we might ourselves be saved from a serious loss.

Trusting that this matter may receive your Lordship's consideration, we have, &c.

(Signed) B. A. DEHN AND MELCHIOR.

No. 21.

Mr. Lushington to Mr. Lister.—(Received October 30.)

Whitehall, October 28, 1884.

Sir,

REFERRING to your letter of the 3rd instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State to transmit herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter which he has received from Mr. Justice Kay, with inclosures, respecting the case of Mr. Meakin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GODFREY LUSHINGTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 21.

Mr. Justice Kay to Mr. Lushington.

37, Hyde Park Gardens, October 23, 1884.

Dear Sir,

I HAVE just received the inclosed papers, from which it appears (the 11th May, 1883) an Order was made on Mr. Meakin to pay 513*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* trust money into Court on or before the 1st July, 1883.

Mr. Meakin failed to do this, and on the 21st March, 1884, he was served with a notice of motion for attachment, which seems to have been originally made on the 31st January, and to have stood over from that date.

On this notice an Order was made on the 27th March, 1884, giving leave to issue an attachment.

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After this Order, upon which he was liable to be attached and imprisoned, Mr. Meakin, on or about the last day of April 1884, left England.
This last date I have no means of verifying, except by information of Messrs. Learoyd.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD E. KAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 21.

In the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division).
Mr. Justice KAY.

1880. A. 48.

Mr. Jackson, Registrar.
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Thursday, the 27th day of March, 1884.

Between Melvina Ahloowalia, Spinster, and Marian Helen Ahloowalia,
Spinster, respectively Infants by Alfred Johnson their next
friend - - - - - Plaintiffs
Edward Ebenezer Meakin - - - - - Defendant.

WHEREAS by the Order dated the 11th May, 1883, it was, *inter alia*, ordered that the defendant, Edward Ebenezer Meakin, should, on or before the 1st July, 1883, or within seven days after service of the said Order, pay into Court to the credit of this action "Ahloowalia v. Meakin, 1880, A. 48," the sum of 513*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* (being the balance of the sum of 650*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*, after deducting therefrom the sums of 100*l.* and 36*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*).

Now, upon motion this day, made unto this Court by Counsel for the plaintiffs, being a renewal of the motion made on the 31st January, 6th February, 21st February, and 28th February, and upon hearing the defendant in person on the said 31st January, 21st February, and 28th February, 1884, and upon reading the said Order, an affidavit of Arthur Frederick Bettinson, filed the 28th July, 1883, of personal service of the said Order on the defendant on the 6th July, 1883, two affidavits of Frederick Charles Goodchild, filed respectively the 12th and 19th March, 1884, the Chancery Paymaster's Certificate, whereby it appears that the defendant has made default in payment of the said sum of 513*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*, as directed by the said Order, and an affidavit of Arthur Frederick Bettinson, filed the 24th March, 1884, of service of notice of renewal of the said motion on the 21st March, 1884, on the defendant.

And it appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that the said defendant has made default in payment of the said sum of 513*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* as trustee of the Indenture of Settlement, dated the 14th January, 1869, as directed by the said Order, and that such default is a default made by a trustee or person acting in a fiduciary capacity, and ordered to pay a sum in his possession or under his control within the meaning of the Debtors' Act, 1869.

This Court doth order that the plaintiffs be at liberty to issue an attachment against the defendant, Edward Ebenezer Meakin, for his contempt in not having paid the said sum of 513*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* into Court as aforesaid, pursuant to the said Order dated the 11th May, 1883.

And it is ordered that the defendant, Edward Ebenezer Meakin, do pay to Alfred Johnson, the plaintiff's next friend, their costs of this application and of the said attachment, such costs to be taxed by the taxing master.

A. 1884. Folio 538.

H. I. J.

In the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division).
Vice-Chancellor HALL.

1880. A. 48.—Folios 9.

Mr. King, Registrar.
Fo. 161.

Friday, the 11th day of May, 1883.

Between Melvina Ahloowalia, Spinster, and Marian Helen Ahloowalia,
Spinster, respectively Infants by Alfred Johnson their next
friend - - - - - Plaintiffs
Edward Ebenezer Meakin - - - - - Defendant.

The application of the plaintiffs to confirm the official referee's Report, dated the 4th February, 1881, and the application of the defendant to vary the said Report

which upon hearing Counsel for the respective applicants in Chambers was adjourned to be heard in Court coming on the 16th April, 1883, and the 4th and 5th May, 1883, to be heard accordingly—

And the plaintiff by his counsel also moving for judgment in the said referee's Report, and upon reading Order of Court of Appeal that costs of prior proceedings should be dealt with by the Vice-Chancellor, and upon hearing counsel for the plaintiffs and defendant, and upon reading the Order of the 2nd June, 1880, the said Report and the Orders of the 16th May, 1881, 28th July, 1881, and the 30th November, 1881, this Court did order that the said applications and motion should stand for judgment, and the said applications and motion standing for judgment this day in the paper in the presence of counsel for the plaintiffs and defendant, this Court does not think fit to make any order upon the said application of the defendant to vary the said Report, except that the defendant is to be allowed to retain out of the sum of 650*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.* mentioned in the said Order dated the 28th July, 1881, the sum of 100*l.* and 36*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* therein mentioned.

And it is ordered that the defendant, Edward Ebenezer Meakin, do, on or before the 1st July, 1883, or within seven days after service of this order, pay into Court to the credit of this action, "Ahloowalia v. Meakin 1880 A. 48," the sum of 513*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*, being the balance of the said sum of 650*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*, after deducting therefrom the said sums of 100*l.* and 36*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*

And it is ordered that it be referred to the taxing master to tax the plaintiffs' costs of the said Orders dated the 16th May, 1881, the 28th July, 1881 (except as to the said sums of 100*l.* and 36*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*), and the 30th November, 1881, and of the said applications and motion, and to tax the defendant's costs of so much of his said application to vary the said Report as relates to the said sums of 100*l.* and 36*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*, and the taxing master is to set off the said costs of the defendant, and to certify the balance due to the plaintiffs after such set off.

And it is ordered that the said defendant do pay to Alfred Johnson, the next friend of the plaintiffs, what shall be certified to be such balance.

1880. A. 48.

In the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division).
Mr. Justice KAY.

Between Melvina Ahloowalia, Spinster, and Marian Helen Ahloowalia,
Infants, by Alfred Johnson their next friend - - - Plaintiffs
Edward Ebenezer Meakin - - - - - Defendant.

Take notice that it is our intention to bring on the motion for your attachment before the Honourable Mr. Justice Kay on Thursday, the 27th day of March instant, and if you do not attend either in person or by counsel, we shall ask the Court to make such Order as it may think fit in your absence.

Dated this 21st day of March, 1884.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) LEAROYD AND CO.,
Albion Chambers, Moorgate Street, E.C.,
Plaintiffs' Solicitors.

To the above-named Defendant.

["A." This is the document referred to and marked "A" in the affidavit of Arthur Frederick Bettinson, sworn in this action the 24th day of March, 1884, before me, W. A. Downing, a Commissioner, &c.]

1880. A. No. 48.

In the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division).
Mr. Justice KAY.

Filed 24th March, 1884.

Between Melvina Ahloowalia, Spinster, and Marian Helen Ahloowalia,
Infants, by Alfred Johnson their next friend - - - Plaintiffs
And Edward Ebenezer Meakin - - - - - Defendant.

Fo. 4.

I, Arthur Frederick Bettinson, of Albion Chambers, Moorgate, in the City of London, clerk to Messrs. Learoyd and Co., of the same place, Solicitors for the above-named plaintiffs, make oath and say as follows:—

I did, on Friday, the 21st day of March, before 6 o'clock in the afternoon of that day, personally serve the above-named defendant, Edward Ebenezer Meakin, with a true copy of the notice now produced and shown to me, marked with the letter "A."
(Signed) A. F. BETTINSON.

Sworn at No. 10, Basinghall Street, in the City of London, this 24th day of March, 1884,

Before me,
(Signed) W. A. DOWNING, a Commissioner to administer Oaths in the Supreme Court of Judicature.

Filed on behalf of the Plaintiffs.
(Signed) LEAROYD AND CO.

No. 22.

Earl Granville to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 43.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, October 31, 1884.
WITH reference to your despatch No. 77 of the 30th July last, and to previous correspondence, respecting claims of British subjects upon Moorish subjects, I have to request that you will take the earliest opportunity of inquiring of the Moorish Government what British claims have been satisfied, and of addressing a strong representation to them on the subject of the protracted delay which has taken place in dealing with such of them as still remain unsettled.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 23.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Messrs. Abrines and Cohen.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, October 31, 1884.
IN reply to your letter of the 16th August last inclosing a Memorial from certain residents at Tangier praying that Her Majesty's Government will recognize Mr. Edward E. Meakin as their representative, I am directed by his Lordship to state to you that Her Majesty's Minister and Her Majesty's Consul can alone be recognized by Her Majesty's Government as possessing a representative character in Tangier. I am further to observe that Mr. Meakin left England in order to avoid being attached and imprisoned.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 24.

Earl Granville to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 44.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, November 1, 1884.
WITH reference to my despatch No. 41 of the 5th September last, I transmit to you herewith, for your information, copy of the correspondence, as marked in the margin,* relative to the application made by certain residents in Tangier for the recognition by Her Majesty's Government of Mr. Meakin as their representative.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

* Nos. 1 c, 3, and 21.

No. 25.

Earl Granville to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 6. Consular.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, November 6, 1884.

WITH reference to Mr. White's despatch No. 20, Consular, of the 30th September, forwarding a copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Payton, reporting upon the charges brought against Mr. Vice-Consul Lapeen, I have to acquaint you, for the information of that gentleman, that his proceedings generally are approved.

I am of opinion, however, that Mr. Payton has taken too lenient a view of Mr. Lapeen's conduct, more especially in the case of El Arby Ben Abd-el-Aziz, and I concur in the suggestion contained in your Memorandum of the 17th October, that compensation is due to Aziz for the imprisonment to which he was unjustly subjected. You will, therefore, call upon Mr. Lapeen to pay such sum as, after inquiry, you consider adequate for this purpose; and you will at the same time inform him that his services as British Vice-Consul at Daralbaida are no longer required.

With regard to Mr. Lapeen's successor in the Vice-Consulate, you will make the best selection in your power and submit the name of the gentleman whom you may select to me for approval.

I entirely concur in Mr. White's suggestion that, under all the circumstances which have come to light, when payment of the claims of British subjects is effected, the claims of Mr. Lapeen and of other British subjects at Daralbaida should receive a searching scrutiny before the money recovered is delivered to them.

Consul Payton's Report, which formed Inclosure 3 in Mr. White's despatch No. 20, is herewith returned, in accordance with your request, but you will have the goodness to return it to this Office when copied.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 26.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 99.)
My Lord,

Tangier, October 30, 1884.

YESTERDAY the French iron-clad frigate "Suffren" arrived from Toulon. M. Ordega wrote to the Sanitary Board, which, as your Lordship is aware, is composed of the foreign Representatives, and requested to be informed what term of observation would be imposed on this vessel.

The Board having, at the outbreak of cholera in the south of France, decided to follow the example of Gibraltar, and order that all vessels arriving from French Mediterranean ports should be refused admittance, replied that their previous decision must be maintained, and the "Suffren" be requested to leave the port.

To this decision M. Ordega appended the following note: "Le 'Suffren' est ici par ordre de mon Gouvernement et restera en rade."

The Board replied that they took note of this declaration as they had not the power to compel a ship of war to leave the harbour, and that they would inquire whether any exception is made at Gibraltar or in Spanish ports in favour of vessels of war as regards quarantine regulations.

It has not transpired what may be the object of the visit of the "Suffren," but Cid Mohammed Bargash told me yesterday that there were several questions pending with the French Minister, though he had ceased to intervene on behalf of the tribes of Anjera, who had revolted against the authority of the Sultan, and proclaimed the Sherceef of Wazan as their Sovereign.

M. Ordega is, no doubt, greatly irritated at the failure of the plot he and the Sherceef had laid for bringing about the downfall of the Sultan,* and will probably not be disposed to rest until he can find grounds for causing complications between the two Governments, though it can hardly be imagined that M. Ferry will be disposed, during the present critical state of affairs in China, to seek for a rupture of relations with Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

* See No. 76 of July 30, No. 90 of August 27, Nos. 91 and 93 of September 22 and 25, 1884.
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Earl Granville to Mr. Reade.

(No. 39.)

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 11 of the 15th March last, I transmit to you herewith copy of a letter from M. Giuseppe Pace,* requesting that further representations may be made to the Government of the Bey of Tunis, with a view to induce them to hold a Court of Inquiry into the circumstances connected with the murder of his son; and I have to request you to furnish me with a Report as to how the case in question now stands.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 100. Confidential.)

My Lord,

FROM private information I have received,† it would appear that the chief ground for complaint the French Minister has put forward against the Moorish Government is the arrest and imprisonment of two Algerines at Fez. The account given to me of this occurrence by one of the Secretaries of the Vizier is as follows:—

A deputation of butchers had presented themselves at the Court to lay before the competent authorities some grievance; they were accompanied by two Algerines, who are not butchers. These latter intervened, and indulged, as it is alleged, in insolent language to the "Mool Meshwa," or chief officer of the Court, who thereupon arrested and imprisoned them.

According to Treaty stipulations between Morocco and other Powers, no person under foreign protection can be arrested or imprisoned by a Moorish authority. No French Agent resides at Fez, but there is an Algerine Agent there, to whom the Moorish Government ought properly to have addressed their complaint against these French citizens: it is said that when that Agent complained of the arrest of the Algerines, the authorities refused to liberate them.

It is certainly an anomalous state of affairs that foreign subjects can enter the precincts of the Court, and insult the chief officer; but be that as it may, the Moorish Government has committed a wrong, and I am led to suppose that the visit of the French iron-clad "Suffren" is chiefly owing to this affair, though I learn that claims of persons under French protection to a large amount have also been presented. M. Ordega will, no doubt, seek to exaggerate the importance of the alleged French grievances against this weak and wretched Government.

Under these circumstances I sent off yesterday an express courier to Fez with a private and confidential letter I have addressed the Vizier, of which I transmit a translation, urging that the Algerines be released, and that satisfaction be given. I recommended, also, that the Government should seek to settle, promptly and with justice, any grievance or claim which M. Ordega may present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure in No. 28.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Vizier.

(Private and Confidential.)
(Translation.)

A FRENCH iron-clad anchored in this bay the day after my arrival on the 28th. I hear that the French Minister has various subjects of complaint, amongst them that two Algerines, who are entitled to be considered as French citizens, have lately been arrested

* No. 18.

† Refer to despatch No. 99 of the 30th October reporting arrival of French iron-clad.

and imprisoned by the authorities at Fez. This is a grave affair, for it is a violation of Treaty that a Moorish authority arrest, imprison, or punish foreign subjects.

I have to urge, as the Representative of a friendly Government, that these men be liberated at once, and that, if a demand for compensation be put forward by the French Minister, it be granted, and an apology be offered.

I strongly advise that other questions pending with the French should be settled with justice and promptitude. It is most impolitic and imprudent to give grounds of offence to the Government of France, the powerful neighbour of Morocco.

The question of the Shereef has, it would appear, been settled to the satisfaction of the Sultan; the French Minister probably feels considerable dissatisfaction on account of the false position in which their protégé, Hadj Abdesselam, of Wazan, has been placed by the chastisement of the Anjera tribe, who had rebelled against the Sultan at his instigation.

Under these circumstances, the Moorish Government should seek to avoid that which may give the French Minister grounds for accumulating grievances against the Government of the Sultan. The French may have their hands full at the present time in consequence of the war with China, but any day peace may be brought about with that Power, and then they will be free to take decisive action in other parts of the world.

Read to His Shereefian Majesty what I have written. I send this courier express solely to give this friendly warning.

I will not write for the present on pending British affairs, which I find in the same state as when I left, though Cid Suleyman promises to give me a list of some affairs which have been settled.

The English squadron of six iron-clads, under the command of the Queen's son, is at Gibraltar. It leaves Gibraltar to-morrow, and returns in twenty days.

Present my respectful salaams to His Shereefian Majesty, and say that I hope His Majesty is in good health, as I cordially desire.

Urge His Shereefian Majesty to warn his authorities against committing acts of aggression towards foreign subjects or protected persons, which I am told are becoming frequent. Any day a rupture of relations might thus be brought about with a friendly Government.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Messrs. Dehn and Melchior.

Foreign Office, November 11, 1884.

Gentlemen,

WITH reference to your letter of the 28th ultimo, I am directed by Earl Granville to inform you that Her Majesty's Government are not in a position to interfere in the matter of the claims made by certain of your debtors against the Government of the Bey of Tunis under the circumstances which you have laid before this Department.

If the Government of the Bey decline to indemnify their own subjects generally for the losses they may have sustained through the bombardment of Sfax, Her Majesty's Government cannot ask that Government to make an exception in favour of some of them, in order to enable them to pay their British creditors.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 48.)

My Lord,

Tunis, October 29, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to report that the last of the foreign Powers represented in Tunis, Holland, has at length consented to abandon her Consular jurisdiction in this Regency in favour of that which is exercised by the French judicial authorities,

instructions to that effect having only this day reached my colleague of the Netherlands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 31.

The Directors of the North-west Africa Company to Earl Granville. — (Received November 13.)

My Lord,

THE Directors of the North-west African Company (Limited) are anxious to place before your Lordship the following statement relative to their establishment on the North-west coast of Africa.

The Company has been established about eight years at Cape Juby. They have acquired considerable territory there, and this acquisition is fully acknowledged by the various tribes in the surrounding district. The Sheikhs and traders from these tribes visit our station periodically, and never fail to express a renewal of their friendship for us, and their determination to support us in all emergencies. The district between Wadnoon and Adrar is inhabited by two tribes, viz., the Ait-el-Jacmel and the Ait-Toussa. The former of these is the tribe in the immediate vicinity of our station, and it is divided into the undermentioned sections under two heads, warlike tribes and peaceable tribes:—

Warlike.
Ait-el-Hassan.
Azzurgenes.
Yakoot.
Majat.

Peaceable.
Ait-Moussa-Ali.
Oulad Tiorareens.
Toubalit.
Oulah-bu-Aitah.
El Amiar.
Foyecat.

The position of our station is unique; it is the key to the Sahara, and it possesses many advantages as a port which are not to be met with in the more northern ports of Mogador, Saffi, Mazagan, &c. The climate is exceptionally fine, Europeans being able to reside there in the full enjoyment of health and strength.

About 300 miles to the south is situated the River Oro. The climate on the peninsula is equal to Cape Juby, but on the mainland a few miles from the coast the heat is intense. The peninsula is 21 miles long, fresh water is abundant, the soil is good and fit to be turned to agricultural purposes; the harbourage is excellent for vessels bearing a burden up to 1,000 tons.

Animals of various kinds abound, the coasts swarm with sea-birds, and the estuary contains an unlimited supply of fish of the choicest and most delicate kinds. Adrar is four days from the Oro, and Senegal is thirty days from Adrar. The Chief of Adrar, Wald Aidah, claims permanent power over this district; this Chief has invited the servants of the Company to the River Oro to build a station and open up trade, and he undertakes to use his utmost endeavours to bring all the produce passing through his dominions to our establishment, should we open one. The trade route to Senegal passes through the territory of the Chief of Adrar. The merchants have bitterly complained to him of the unjust way they are treated when they arrive at the Senegal. Wald Sidi, the Chief of the Trarozatubes, who inhabit the Senegal, and with whom the French have made a Treaty, imposes such heavy dues upon the produce brought by these merchants that it leaves but little room for profit. Wald Aidah, the Chief of Adrar, although sufficiently powerful to punish the tribe guilty of this injustice, is not strong enough to do so if backed up by the French auxiliaries, as they undoubtedly would be. He therefore hails with joy the prospect of opening up trade at the River Oro, which will place him in a position of independence, and enable him to do justice to the merchants who claim his protection. The partiality of this Chief for the English is well known; he has expressed his willingness to assist us in every manner, both in extending our business and in giving us his steady and unwavering support and protection, while at the same time he has intimated his aversion to the Spanish and French.

The Company respectfully claim that the future route to the higher Niger will pass through the populous and fertile country of Adrar, and as the opening up of trade in this district will involve them in a further heavy outlay of capital, they pray that the territory betwixt the Wady Draa and Senegal, embracing a coast-line of 800 miles, and which has never been annexed by any European Power, may be declared neutral territory so far as European and American nations are concerned, and that Her Majesty's Government will use its influence at the Conference sitting at Berlin to have this declaration officially and definitely settled.

They are informed that Spain will bring before the Conference the establishment of the British station at Cape Juby, and the Company beg that their interests may receive protection from Her Majesty's Government.

The Company trust that Her Majesty's Government will support their claim to the control of this district, not for their exclusive trading, but to represent British interests and Her Majesty's Government on the line of coast indicated.

We have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY LEE,
JOSEPH C. LEE, } Directors.
ROB. SCOTT,

(Signed) ALFRED BROOKES, Secretary.

No. 32.

Mr. Tempest to Lord E. Fitzmaurice. — (Received November 13.)

My Lord,

48, Gresham Street, London, November 12, 1884.
I AM instructed by the Directors of the North-west African Company (Limited) to ask your Lordship to kindly favour them by handing the inclosed communication to Earl Granville, in company with the letter I am given to understand that your Lordship has received from Sir Joseph C. Lee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. W. TEMPEST.

No. 33.

Earl Granville to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 45.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, November 13, 1884.
WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch of the 1st instant, I transmit to you herewith, for your information, copy of the reply which I have caused to be addressed to Messrs. Abrines and Cohen respecting Mr. Meaken.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 34.

Earl Granville to Mr. Stuart.

(No. 82.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, November 14, 1884.
I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, copy of a despatch which has been received from Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General in Tunis, announcing the abolition of Dutch Consular jurisdiction in that Regency.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Mr. Lister to the Directors of the North-west African Company.

Gentlemen,

I HAVE laid before Earl Granville your undated Memorial received on the 13th instant, in which you urge that Her Majesty's Government should use their influence at the Conference now sitting at Berlin in order to obtain an authoritative declaration by the Powers that the country lying between Wady Draa and Senegal, embracing a coast-line of 800 miles, is neutral territory.

Whilst attaching full weight to the considerations which you have brought before him, and which have induced you to make the above proposal, Lord Granville directs me to express to you his regret that Her Majesty's Government are not prepared to comply with the prayer of the Memorial, since to propose such a declaration to the Conference would involve the introduction of matters which are outside the scope of their deliberations.

A copy of your Memorial will, however, be forwarded to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin, for his information, and his Excellency's attention will be called to the fears which you entertain on the subject of your factory at Cape Juby from the possible action of Spain.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 36.

Extracts from the "Times" of July 4 and 16 and November 15, 1884.

Replies of Lord E. Fitzmaurice in the House of Commons to Questions relative to the alleged fraudulent Claims of British Subjects against Natives of Morocco.

July 4, 1884.

MOORISH PRISONS.

In reply to Mr. W. Corbet,

Lord E. Fitzmaurice said the attention of Her Majesty's Government was called to the state of the prison at Tangier in the course of last year. Her Majesty's Minister in Morocco reported on the subject, and explained the steps which he had from time to time taken to improve its condition. The Report will be laid, and Sir John Hay will be instructed to report on the statement contained in the letter in the "Globe" of the 20th June, referred to by the honourable Member.

July 16, 1884.

DEBTORS IN MOROCCO.

Mr. W. Corbet asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention had been called to statements in the "Globe" of the 10th, 11th, and 12th instant, made by its own correspondent at Tangiers, in which the details are given of fraudulent claims alleged to have been preferred by English subjects against natives of Morocco, which claims appear to have led to the imprisonment of the alleged debtors under circumstances of great barbarity; and whether Government would send out a Special Commission to inquire into the charges, especially the charge against an English public functionary, described as Mr. A., who, it was asserted, caused the imprisonment of a native named El Arbi-ben-Abdulazeez on a false claim; and also the apparently dreadful state of the prisons in which the alleged debtors were confined.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice.—Her Majesty's Government have no official information as regards the statements in question. They will, however, cause inquiries to be made with a view of ascertaining what truth there is in the charges alluded to.

November 15, 1884.

CLAIMS AGAINST NATIVES OF MOROCCO.

Mr. W. Corbet asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the inquiry which he promised him last July into the alleged fraudulent claims preferred by English subjects against natives of Morocco had been held, and with what result?

Lord E. Fitzmaurice.—Inquiry has been made into the alleged abuses in connection with the claims of British subjects against natives of Morocco and the misconduct of a British official. These charges have been proved to be in some instances well founded, and the inquiry has led to the dismissal of the official implicated. El Arbi-ben-Abdulazeez has been released, and Her Majesty's Minister has been instructed to insist on a searching scrutiny of the claims of British subjects before any money is paid to the claimants. The attention of Her Majesty's Minister had already been called to the alleged state of the Moorish prison at Dar-al-Baida, in which the debtors were confined, and the alleged cruel treatment of the prisoners detained therein. He has caused a strong remonstrance to be addressed to the Governor, who, however, denied the truth of the allegations. The matter, however, will not be allowed to drop.

No. 37.

Earl Granville to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 350.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 15, 1884.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, copy of a letter from the North-west African Company, calling attention to the importance of their position as British merchants trading in the district near Cape Juby, and urging that Her Majesty's Government should use their influence in the Conference to obtain the neutralization of the territory comprised in the coast-line between Wady Draa and the French Colony of Senegal.*

The latter suggestion is not one which Her Majesty's Government can adopt, but your Excellency should oppose any attempt on the part of the Spanish Representative to obtain a decision adverse to the Company.

The Company has been informed, in the letter of which copy is inclosed,† that your attention has been called to the matter.

For your Excellency's fuller information, I inclose a copy of previous correspondence, as marked in the margin,‡ relating to the factory at Cape Juby.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 38.

Earl Granville to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 46.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 17, 1884.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 38 of the 29th July, and to previous correspondence respecting the establishment belonging to the North-West African Company at Cape Juby, I transmit herewith, for your information, copy of a correspondence, as noted in the margin,§ relating to an application made to Her Majesty's Government by that Company with the view to a declaration by the West African Conference now sitting at Berlin, that the country lying between the Wady Draa and Senegal is neutral territory.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

* No. 31.

† See Part VIII, Nos. 24, 29, and 42.

‡ No. 35.

§ Nos. 31, 35, and 37.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 101. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, November 11, 1884.

M. DIOSDADO met me out riding yesterday, and said he had just left M. Ordega, with whom he had a long conversation. M. Diosdado said that, as the Government at Madrid had directed him to endeavour to keep on friendly and intimate terms with the French Representative, he had asked M. Ordega if there was any foundation for the statement made in French journals that in the approaching Conference at Berlin a question was to be raised about Morocco, and that this country, or a portion of it, would be allotted to France.

M. Ordega replied that for the present he did not suppose any decision had been come to by his Government, but that he would fulfil the promise he had already made to M. Diosdado of giving him timely notice of the intentions of the French Government regarding Morocco.

M. Diosdado inquired whether there was any grave question pending between the French and Moorish Governments, that the iron-clad "Suffren" had been sent to Tangier.

M. Ordega replied that the Moorish Government had committed an infraction of Treaty stipulations by the arrest of two Algerines, and that officers at the Moorish Court had grossly insulted their Algerine Agent at Fez; that other French-protected subjects had been ill-treated; and that there were pecuniary claims of protected persons to a very large amount, for which payment was about to be demanded.

M. Ordega added that he was on the point of dispatching an express to the Court at Fez to demand full satisfaction without addressing himself either to Cid Mohammed Bargash or to Hadj Mohammed Torres, that the "Suffren" would remain in this bay until he received his reply, and that the Commander had received orders to support him if necessary.

M. Diosdado said, with a smile, that he had asked M. Ordega to give him a notice of at least ten days before a bombardment took place.

M. Diosdado requested me to consider as very confidential what he had imparted to me, adding that he believed it was the intention of M. Ordega to exact the payment of a very large sum of money as satisfaction.

I was assured yesterday by Hadj Mohammed Torres, before I met M. Diosdado, that the Algerine Agent at Fez had not been insulted by the authorities, but that he had complained of some Askar having run up against him with an animal, carrying a ram in panniers, whose horns had torn his dress. The Askar were imprisoned, but were subsequently liberated without notice being given to the Algerine Agent. The latter had complained of this as a want of consideration on the part of the Governor of Fez, but the affair had been arranged amicably. M. Ordega had, however, refused to accept the arrangement, and it was one of the grievances for which satisfaction would be demanded.

I held to Hadj Mohammed Torres and to Cid Mohammed Ben Suleiman, the Sultan's Secretary, similar language to that I have addressed the Vizir* regarding these questions with the French Minister, and I warned them against giving any further just grounds for complaint, as I said M. Ordega was evidently bent upon seeking for a pretext to break off relations, being greatly vexed that his ambitious projects about the Shereef had been thwarted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

P.S.—At the moment of closing this despatch I learn that the Paris "Événement" announces that the Governor of Algeria has received orders from Paris to prepare at once three expeditionary columns, which are to be sent to Morocco in order to support the demands of France for reparation from the Sultan.

J. H. D. H.

* See despatch No. 100 of November 3, 1884, *ante*, No. 28.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 102.)

My Lord,

Tangier, November 12, 1884.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 101 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that two Algerines, who had been imprisoned by the authorities at Fez, have arrived here, and have been delivered over to the French Legation.

It is said that M. Ordega has prepared peremptory demands requiring satisfaction from this Government for this and other grievances, which the Sultan will be required to accede to, or risk a rupture of relations.

The Sultan's Secretary, Cid Mohammed Ben Suleyman, called at my office to-day. I gave him the "Gibraltar Chronicle" of the 10th instant, which contained a copy of the extract from the "Événement," of Paris, of the 3rd November, transmitted to your Lordship in the postscript of the above-mentioned despatch; and I requested him to send off an express to the Sultan with the information, adding, however, that I could not vouch for the accuracy of the report it contained, but that I apprehended very serious consequences might ensue if the satisfaction which M. Ordega demanded was not acceded to; adding that, even if the removal of the present Governor of Fez was demanded on account of his having arrested French citizens contrary to Treaty rights, it should be granted.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 41.

Earl Granville to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 47.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 21, 1884.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatch No. 100 of the 3rd instant, inclosing copy of a note which you addressed to the Vizier, urging him to take steps for the release of the two Algerines under French protection who were arrested under the circumstances therein set forth, and advising him at the same time to settle promptly and with justice any grievance or claim which M. Ordega might present; and I have to state to you that your action in this matter is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 42.

Question asked in the House of Lords, November 21, 1884.

The Lord Zouche of Haryngworth.—To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any official denial has been published by the French Government to an article which appeared in the "Gaulois" newspaper in the spring of this year, wherein the Editor accused several of the foreign Representatives at Tangier of corrupt practices, and amongst them the British Minister, Sir John Drummond Hay, stating that he (the Editor) had obtained this information from the French Minister at Tangier, M. Ordega, who was at that time in Paris on leave of absence; and as it would appear that, owing to the fact of no denial having been given to these grave charges, other accusations were made by French journals, which were referred to in English journals, to the effect that Sir J. D. Hay had obstructed British enterprise and commerce, and had encouraged the Sultan of Morocco in his policy of resistance to all reform and improvement, whether there are any grounds for such grave charges having been put forward?

Annex.

Extract from the "Times" of November 22, 1884.

House of Lords.

SIR J. D. HAY.

Lord Zouche asked Her Majesty's Government whether any official denial had been published by the French Government to an article which appeared in the "Gaulois" newspaper in the spring of this year, wherein the Editor accused several of the foreign Representatives at Tangier of corrupt practices, and among them the British Minister, Sir John Drummond Hay, stating that he (the Editor) had obtained this information from the French Minister at Tangier, M. Ordega, who was at that time in Paris on leave of absence; and, as it would appear that, owing to the fact of no denial having been given to those grave charges, other accusations were made by French journals which were referred to in English journals, to the effect that Sir J. D. Hay had obstructed British enterprise and commerce, and had encouraged the Sultan of Morocco in his policy of resistance to all reform and improvement, whether there were any grounds for such grave charges having been put forward? Sir John Hay had been passed over by many of his juniors, and had now been upwards of thirty years in his present post, and he and his friends thought it incumbent upon them to have some sort of public contradiction of these most unfounded charges, and some sort of public vindication of his character. (Hear, hear.)

Earl Granville.—My Lords, I think the noble lord has correctly stated the facts of the case. The Editor of the "Gaulois," it appears, accused Sir John Hay and his colleagues of most intolerable practices, and gave M. Ordega as his authority. Now, I am not sure that if I read such an article as this concerning myself I should not treat it with contempt and trust to whatever character I had. But it is a different thing when men serving their country in distant countries are thus unjustly attacked, for, as in this case, the extract from the French paper is copied not only into other foreign newspapers, but into English newspapers. However, after what has occurred I thought it necessary, at the request of Sir J. D. Hay, to make an application to M. Ferry, in courteous terms, that M. Ordega should be called upon either to substantiate, or retract, or to say that he had not communicated the article to the "Gaulois." M. Ferry, in the first instance, said the "Gaulois" was perfectly wrong, that no such report had been circulated by Ordega himself, and that he thought that it was hardly worth while to contradict a statement made in a newspaper which was well known to be so strongly opposed to the existing French Government. M. Ordega was, however, applied to, and he telegraphed to Paris entirely denying that he had communicated or inspired any such article in the "Gaulois." M. Ferry took the view that a great deal of time had now elapsed, and that it was really better not to call attention to the matter now. I have been in correspondence with Sir J. D. Hay, and the last letter I received from him, only a day or two ago, was to the effect that he was perfectly satisfied, and that he should trouble his head no more in the matter. I am glad to be able to add that I believe there is no man in the diplomatic service more honourable or more energetic in the discharge of his duties than Sir J. D. Hay. (Hear, hear.) The noble lord says that Sir J. D. Hay has been passed over for promotion, but I remember instances where persons employed in the diplomatic service have been, to use a homely phrase, kicked upstairs to get them out of a place where they were doing mischief instead of good. (Laughter.) I believe it to be exactly the contrary in the case of Sir Drummond Hay. He is most fit for the post he has held, and for that reason he has lost some chances of personal advancement. (Hear, hear.) I really can only repeat in the strongest way that Sir Drummond Hay was quite justified in dismissing from his mind any imputation made against him, and I have great pleasure in adding that a short time ago the Queen granted him the Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George. (Hear, hear.)

The Marquis of Salisbury.—As the youngest and most recent of the Foreign Secretaries the noble earl has referred to, I have very great pleasure in joining with him in expressing the high estimation which was always entertained for Sir Drummond Hay by his superiors. Not only was the charge against him ridiculous, as it would have been against any Representative of the Crown, but he is a man of singular integrity and patriotism, and a more able, progressive, and intelligent adviser does not exist in the diplomatic service.

I always thought it a weak point in our diplomatic arrangements that a class of men like Sir Drummond Hay, of whom there are several in the service, who have special qualities for the particular post they occupy, cannot be rewarded as they should be rewarded without detriment to the public service, because, by the rules of the service, their rank cannot be increased where they are, and because they cannot be removed from the post they occupy without doing harm to the public service. I think Sir Drummond Hay has been more than repaid by the universal confidence with which he is looked up to and the very high esteem in which he has always been held. I think it is unnecessary to vindicate any English statesman against foreign newspapers, because their statements are, as a rule, absolutely phenomenal. I remember one statement in a foreign newspaper which informed us that the noble duke, for whose eloquence we are waiting to-night, was about to go abroad to spend the winter in the south of France with his well-known greyhounds (laughter), and I remember another such statement which informed us that a well-known statesman, an English Lord Chancellor, was about to receive some high honour from the Crown for his services as President of the Berlin Congress. (Laughter.)

The Earl of Malmesbury and Lord Napier of Magdala also bore their testimony to the high integrity and character of Sir Drummond Hay; and

The Earl of Derby said that he did not know any person in any branch of the public service more utterly incapable of such conduct as that imputed to him than Sir Drummond Hay. He had always known him as an active and able public servant. (Hear, hear.)

The subject then dropped.

No. 43.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 103. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, November 15, 1884.

I LEARN confidentially from Cid Mohammed Ben Suleyman* that M. Ordega informed Cid Mohammed Bargash yesterday that he was about to dispatch an express courier to the Court with a note containing demands that he was ordered by his Government to put forward, and that if the courier did not return within ten days with a favourable reply he would embark, meaning, I conclude, that he would break off relations.

He declined to make known to Cid Mohammed Bargash the nature of the demands he had put forward for fear they should be divulged.

Cid Mohammed Bargash is stated to have replied in friendly language that, as it will take a courier five days to go to Fez and five to return, and only ten were granted for a reply, whatever M. Ordega intended to do had better be done at once. M. Ordega then said he would extend the term to fifteen days.

On receipt of this information, I immediately dispatched a private letter to the Vizier, referring to the advice I had lately given him, and urging in the strongest language that the Sultan should accede to the demands of the French Minister for satisfaction,† or otherwise a rupture of relations may ensue.

A person who is in the confidence of M. Benchimol, the native interpreter of the French Legation, says that the latter informed him that an army of 15,000 men has been ordered to proceed to Hemsén, and that three more ships of war, in addition to the iron-clad "Suffren," are expected to arrive at Tangier shortly. This report may perhaps be spread purposely by the French Legation to induce this Government to accede without demur to M. Ordega's demands.

I think the relations between France and this country are in a very critical state, produced by the action of M. Ordega.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

* One of the Sultan's private Secretaries.—J. H. D. H.

† In giving this advice I conclude there is no demand for a cession of territory or of a port.—J. H. D. H.

Extract from the "Times" of November 22, 1884.

House of Commons.

BRITISH CLAIMS IN MOROCCO.

Mr. W. Corbet asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he would lay the papers relating to the investigations recently held into the fraudulent claims made by British subjects against natives of Morocco upon the table of the House?

Lord E. Fitzmaurice.—As the transactions referred to in the honourable Member's question are not yet completed, I cannot at present undertake to lay the papers; but as soon as they are complete the papers will be considered, in order, if possible, to lay them before Parliament.

Earl Granville to Viscount Lyons.*

(No. 992. Confidential.)
My Lord,

I INCLOSE herewith, for your Excellency's information, copy of despatches, as marked in the margin,† which have been received from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, reporting the circumstances attending the visit of a French iron-clad at that port.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Earl Granville to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 48.)
Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 77 of the 30th July last, and to my despatch No. 6, Consular, of the 6th instant, and previous correspondence, relating to the abuses which have arisen in connection with the claims of British subjects against natives of Morocco, I have to request that you will continue to energetically press upon the Moorish Government the necessity for a searching inquiry into the state of the prisons in which the debtors are confined, and for the adoption of a careful system of supervision, such as may insure the adoption of adequate measures to prevent the ill-treatment of prisoners, which is attracting much attention in this country.

The specific question of the state of the prison at Dar-el-Baira should not be allowed to drop.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Consul-General F. R. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 13. Consular.)
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith inclosed, translations of a Petition addressed to me by Mr. Francesco Aquilina, a British subject, against Father Angelo, "Père Préfet," or Head of the Roman Catholic Mission here, and of the answer of the latter.

The facts of the case, shortly stated, are as follows:—

Mr. Aquilina had given a promise of marriage to a woman, an Italian subject, who had

* Also to Sir R. Morier (No. 141).

† Nos. 26 and 28.

been recommended to him by a priest of the mission; but having subsequently discovered that she bore an indifferent reputation, he broke off the match and engaged himself to another woman, a British subject. On applying to be married to the latter in the Roman Catholic Church, Father Angelo refused to do so, and insisted that he should marry the woman he was first engaged to, or submit to the decision of an Ecclesiastical Tribunal as to the amount of damages he should pay. This Aquilina would not consent to do, preferring to have an action for breach of promise of marriage brought against him in the Court of this Consulate; and having failed to induce his first intended to release him from the engagement by the offer of a sum of money, he gave notice in this Consulate of his intention to be married civilly to the woman he had subsequently become engaged to, and having fulfilled all the requirements of the law, was duly married, without any religious ceremony, before me on the 6th ultimo. On stating his intention to do this to Father Angelo, Aquilina was personally ill-treated by him, and Father Angelo further denounced him and his intended from the high altar during mass, at which M. Feraud, the French Consul-General, was present, anathematizing and excommunicating Aquilina and his intended should they marry at this Consulate, and declaring civil marriages to be null and void, and nothing better than a state of concubinage. Father Angelo also told M. Feraud that, notwithstanding the civil marriage of Aquilina at this Consulate, he was ready to marry him to the woman to whom he was first engaged. M. Feraud, considering the behaviour of Father Angelo in this affair as unjustifiable, and his answer to Aquilina's Petition as offensive to himself as representing the civil power, and having, moreover, been treated personally by Father Angelo with rudeness, has addressed a serious complaint to the French Government against him.

I had not intended to trouble your Lordship with this affair, and I only report it in compliance with the request of my French colleague, who is anxious that your Lordship should be cognisant of the facts of the case in the event of a reference being made by his Government to your Lordship on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 47.

Petition addressed to Consul-General F. R. Drummond Hay.

(Translation.)

Between Francesco Aquilina, plaintiff, and Father Angelo di St. Agata, defendant.

THE plaintiff, Francesco Aquilina respectfully submits that:—

1. About six months ago he presented himself to Father Giuseppe Maria and expressed the desire of remarrying, and having inquired about a Mrs. Cecilia de Caprile, an Italian subject, received from Father Giuseppe Maria the most satisfactory account.

2. The children of plaintiff having become aware that he contemplated remarriage strongly opposed it, Mrs. Cecilia de Caprile not seeming to them a proper person for him to marry, in consequence of the reports which were in circulation in Tripoli concerning her.

3. Plaintiff having brought to the notice of Father Giuseppe the views held by his children, Father Giuseppe replied that he should not listen to them, because their interests made them dissuade him from remarrying, and with his insinuations he obliged him to register himself in a certain book kept for publishing banns of marriage in the church.

4. His children having decided to leave Tripoli in the event of his marrying with the said Cecilia de Caprile, he gave way to them and withdrew his promise.

5. Everything was referred by him to the Rev. Father Angelo di St. Agata, Apostolical Prefect, who advised him to send persons to De Caprile to offer her some present in money.

6. Overtures with De Caprile having failed, plaintiff presumed he had a right to ask in marriage Miss Filomena Cachia, now his lawful wife, whom his own children suggested to him, as they wished to show him that it was not their interests but their honour which had led them to oppose his union with De Caprile.

7. Defendant sent for plaintiff, who going with his son Felice to the convent, received much ill-treatment, the son Felice being threatened with imprisonment and a chain round his neck, and both being driven away from the convent.

8. Defendant having refused to publish and celebrate the marriage in church, plaintiff decided to first get married civilly.

9. Becoming aware of the notice of marriage made by plaintiff in Her Britannic

Majesty's Consular Office, defendant again sent for plaintiff, and threatened him with excommunication if he married at the Consulate. Defendant said that marriage at the Consulate was concubinage and null. This happened on Friday, the 10th of the present October.

10. Plaintiff requested defendant to endeavour to settle the matter with De Caprile, and that he would, as a present (not as a matter of right or compunction), submit to a proposal for the payment of a reasonable sum of money.

11. Defendant said that he washed his hands of the matter: that he could not interpose at all, since an Ecclesiastical Tribunal would have to be held, with himself as Judge; and he pronounced beforehand the sentence, which was that plaintiff would be condemned to marry or give dowry to De Caprile.

12. It was agreed between defendant and plaintiff that they should see each other on Sunday, the 12th of the present October, but on the morning of the said Sunday, defendant, without first seeing plaintiff, arbitrarily denounced from the high altar plaintiff and his betrothed, launching anathemas against them were they to marry at the Consulate; and with them their relations and advisers.

13. Plaintiff indignant and unwilling to submit to an Ecclesiastical Tribunal, not considering it opportune, and because its object was to extort from him a heavy sum of money, refused, and had his marriage celebrated at Her Britannic Majesty's Consulate in the most formal and legal manner.

14. After the marriage M. Charles Feraud, French Consul-General, interposed with the object of settling the question amicably, but had to break off all negotiations with defendant, and to inform him that he was not a broker as soon as the matter became a question of money, defendant having asked for the exorbitant sum of 500*l.* to settle the question.

15. This demand for 500*l.* was reduced to 100 napoleons, which showed what a mean bargain was being made at plaintiff's expense. This was all considered as an abuse and presumption, since with money everything would have been arranged.

16. That a plot had been attempted against plaintiff, since the same demand was made by the lawyer, Criscimanno, who is counsel for the Mission; who sent for the brother-in-law of plaintiff, Michelangelo Cachia, and attempted to intimidate him by saying things which will be shown at the trial.

Plaintiff therefore prays that, according to law, he may obtain full reparation for the abuse, injury, and ill-treatment received, and that he be awarded damages for what he has suffered or may suffer, and that an action be commenced, and that defendant be made to pay all costs.

Plaintiff prays that copy of the present Petition be transmitted to the French Consulate-General for the ends of justice.

With, &c.
(For Francesco Aquilina.)
(Signed) E. MILUL.

Tripoli, October 30, 1884.

Inclosure 2 in No. 47.

Father Angelo to M. Feraud.

(Translation.)
Sir,

I HAVE received the copy of the so-called Petition which Mr. Aquilina has presumed to make against me.

I have no need to show how, in the said Petition, Aquilina, in stating the facts, did not endeavour to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. And wherefore should I? Who is not acquainted with the whole matter?

I might demand the punishment of the authors of the said Petition for the thousand calumnies and villanies which it contains against me; but forgiving them as a pitying father, I abstain from so doing. Nevertheless, I am greatly surprised when I think that the said Petition, though full of bold and impudent villanies and calumnies, was accepted and transmitted in order that it might be communicated to me.

I do not know whether Aquilina has or has not suffered, or if he may or may not suffer damage, as he says; nor do I care. He wished to marry Miss Filomena Cachia in accordance with the laws of our holy religion, and according to these same laws he could not contract such marriage, being prevented from so doing by previous engagements which had

been validly contracted by him with the widow Cecilia Caprile, née Esposito, and which were not yet lawfully loosened.

It was he who wished to do that which has up to the present been done, and he wished to do it to the disgrace of the laws of our holy religion. The ecclesiastical authority did not compel him; and, therefore, if he has suffered injury, let him blame himself, who is the author, and not the ecclesiastical authority, which did its duty in not contravening the laws of the Catholic Church, which laws that authority is bound to observe and cause them to be observed.

All that I have done I did because I was bound to do so as Head of this Catholic Mission. I and others did not fail to give Aquilina proper advice and to admonish him. Certain good Catholics spontaneously and separately proposed to Aquilina the means, unknown to Mrs. Caprile, of amicably releasing him from the matrimonial engagements contracted with the said Caprile; but Aquilina would not consent to any of the measures proposed to him, and these doings have been, by Aquilina, impudently called a plot!

I do not know what Caprile intends doing, I only know that she continues to maintain the canonical impediment which she has entered at this parochial church, and that so long as such impediment lasts, Mr. Aquilina and Miss Filomena Cachia cannot be allowed to celebrate their marriage according to the laws of our holy religion. I have already informed my superior ecclesiastical authority of all that has happened, and I await the necessary instructions.

I, Head of this Catholic Mission, intended, and do intend, to perform my duties; to decide, therefore, whether I really fulfil them or not is not the province of any civil authority, but solely of the ecclesiastical authority superior to me. The civil authority is incompetent to judge whether the ecclesiastical authority has ever or not performed the duties of his office.

This much for your information and that of Mr. F. R. Drummond Hay, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General.

Accept, &c.
(Signed) FR. ANGELO.

No. 47*.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 104.)
My Lord,

Tangier, November 16, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the translation of a letter addressed to me by Cid Mohammed Bargash, requesting that I take steps to warn the British subjects, the editors of the three journals,* published at Tangier, against continuing to introduce articles containing offensive language regarding the Sultan and his Government. Cid Mohammed Bargash also states that he has received complaints from some of the foreign Representatives regarding the attacks made upon them in these papers, which tend to produce discord, and that he will not for the future allow the publication of such matters to pass unnoticed.

Her Majesty's Consul has, at my request, made known to the editors, through the printer,† who is also an editor, the complaint of the Moorish Minister, and has given a warning that they abstain from the publication of matter of a character which may give grounds for offence to the Government or to the foreign Representatives.

I have made known to Cid Mohammed Bargash that, in pursuance of his request, I had given directions that this step be taken by Her Majesty's Consul, but that, as there are no Regulations framed for the guidance of Consular officers in Morocco regarding offences of the press, laying down the powers they may possess in cases in which editors or printers are accused of publishing matter of a libellous or injurious character, I had applied to your Lordship for instructions upon this subject.

Under these circumstances, and as there is little doubt that the chief political articles in the "Réveil du Maroc" are written or inspired by the French Minister, M. Ordega, I beg that I may be informed what I or Her Majesty's Consul can do should further complaints be made by Cid Mohammed Bargash or by the foreign Representatives, on account of a continuance of the publication of attacks upon the Sultan and his Government, or upon the Agents of foreign Powers in this country.

* "Al Moghreb al Aksa," "Réveil du Maroc," "Times of Morocco."
† A British subject named G. T. Abrines.—J. H. D. H.

I further beg to be informed whether, in the event of its being considered that neither I nor Her Majesty's Consul can take any action in the matter, the Moorish Government is at liberty to forbid the publication of a newspaper which has given just grounds for offence.

With regard to the complaints which Cid Mohammed Bargash states have been made by foreign subjects, I beg to assure your Lordship that I am not one of the foreign Representatives who have made any representation on this subject.

In justice to the editor of the "Moghreb al Aksa," which is published in Spanish, I think it right to mention to your Lordship that he has generally been more discreet than the other two papers in avoiding the publication of articles which may give grounds for complaint on the part of the Moorish Government, and he has promised Her Majesty's Consul to be more careful in the future. As to the other two papers, I expect they will continue to indulge in malevolent statements regarding this Government and the foreign Representatives who oppose the views of the French Minister.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure in No. 47*.

Cid Mohammed Bargash to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(Translation.)

(After usual compliments.)

20 Muharrem, 1302 (November 10, 1884).

ABOUT a-year-and-a-half ago a British subject started a weekly newspaper in the Spanish language; shortly after, his example was followed by another British subject, who brought out another weekly newspaper in French, and subsequently appeared a third newspaper published monthly in English.

As we found that these papers at first adopted a becoming tone when treating of the Sultan and others, especially friendly nations, we raised no objection to their publication, for they produced no ill effect, and we were of opinion that they would prove advantageous to this country and to foreigners, by enlightening the minds of the people, and drawing closer the ties of friendship between ourselves and foreign Governments. But we now perceive that the result of the publication of these papers is very different from what we had anticipated, for far from having the effect we had hoped, we find that they publish articles which raise ill-feeling between this and other countries, thus separating themselves from what we at first imagined was their programme, inasmuch as they have assumed a tone contrary to what we had been led to expect, pursuing a course which will prove injurious, for instead of encouraging friendly relations between Morocco and other nations, they seek to introduce discord, treating of matters tending to excite ill-will between them, and placing themselves in opposition to the laws of the land.

Some of the Representatives of friendly Powers, who are entitled to be respected and honoured in these dominions, have complained of the aforesaid journals on account of the language they contain, which is contrary to the truth.

These newspapers, further, continually publish false information regarding the usages and government of this Empire, and they have even had the audacity to cast doubts on the rectitude and justice of His Majesty the Sultan, venturing to invent and publish base calumnies concerning His Shereefian Majesty, which it is impossible to tolerate or to pass unnoticed.

We, therefore, relying on your friendship, request that you will give notice to the proprietors of these newspapers, who are British subjects, that we will not in future admit or pass over in silence the publication of such articles, and that you warn them to be careful to refrain from such conduct, for we are convinced that you desire the welfare of this country and of its people, and that you will take such steps as will prevent a recurrence of these offences.

No. 48.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received November 26, 8 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tangiers, November 26, 1884, 6 P.M.

FRENCH differences are arranged; salutes have been exchanged; iron-clad departs.

No. 49.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 49.)

My Lord,

Tunis, November 15, 1884.

A QUESTION having arisen between the Governments of Germany and Tunis regarding the settlement of a claim which the latter Government is apparently unwilling to admit, I have the honour to bring the circumstances to your Lordship's notice. In doing so I must express my regret that, owing to the secrecy with which this matter is being dealt with at the French Residency and by the Acting German Consul, the particulars I am able to give are not so complete as would be desired.

In or about the year 1873 Sy Mustapha Khasnader, who had held for many years the office of Prime Minister and fallen into disgrace, demanded payment of a number of Tunisian bonds (for 6,000,000 piastres, or about 150,000*l.*) which he presented for that purpose to the Finance Commission, and which had been given to him in return for money loans he had made to the Government. The Commission declining to accept the bonds at more than one-fourth of their real value, they were returned to Sy Mustapha, who passed them over to his banker, the late Hai Sebah.

Some time afterwards Sebah proceeded to Germany, and, as it appears, sold the bonds to a banking firm of that country. Later on, they fell into the possession of an influential functionary of the German Government named Kleist Retzow, and their payment is now demanded in full, with 5,000,000 piastres additional on account of interest.

The claim, it is said, is supported by Prince Bismarck personally.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 50.

*Earl Granville to Viscount Lyons.**

(No. 1020.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 28, 1884.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, the accompanying copy of a telegram from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, reporting the settlement of French differences and the departure of the French iron-clad.[†]

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 51.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 105. Ext. 7.)

My Lord,

Tangier, November 26, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have this day addressed the following telegram to your Lordship:—

"The differences between France and Morocco have been settled, and the 'Suffren' exchanged salutes with the town."

"She is about to leave this bay."

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

* Also to Sir J. S. Lumley (No. 245), Sir E. Malet (No. 373), Sir A. Paget (No. 185), Mr. Wyndham (No. 348), Sir E. Thornton (No. 361), and Sir R. Morier (No. 144).

[†] No. 48.
[499]

No. 51*.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 106. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, November 26, 1884.
WITH reference to my telegram of this day's date, I have the honour to transmit the translation of a private letter I have just received from the Vizier, thanking me for my advice regarding the questions pending between the French Legation and the Moorish Government, and assuring me that it would be followed, and that the differences with the French Minister would be amicably settled.

As your Lordship will have learnt from the above-mentioned telegram, this promise has already been carried out, and the iron-clad "Suffren" will, I am told, leave to-morrow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure in No. 51*.

The Vizier to Sir J. H. Drummond Hay.

(Private.)

(Translation.)

(After usual compliments.)

30 Muharrem, 1302 (November 20, 1884).
WE have received your friendly letter containing the Memorandum, for which we thank you, and pray God's blessing be on you, and that all your best wishes may be fulfilled.

Be assured, and let your mind be at ease; there shall be no deviation from what you recommend. When the hearts of your friendly Government and of yourself are with us, matters will easily be settled, and nothing will happen of an untoward character.

(Signed) MOHAMMED BEN ALARBY BEN EL MOKHTAR.

No. 52.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 107. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, December 1, 1884.
WITH reference to my despatch No. 106, Confidential, of the 26th ultimo, transmitting the translation of a letter addressed to me by the Vizir Mokhtar, conveying the thanks of the Sultan for the counsels I had offered regarding the late differences with the French Minister, I have the honour to transmit the translation of a further letter from the Vizir, in which he narrates how it came to pass that the two Algerines were arrested, and describes the perplexing position in which the Moorish authorities are placed when persons under foreign protection commit misdemeanours or crimes, and the authorities are powerless to arrest or punish them.

With the view of illustrating the difficulties with which the Moorish Government has to contend on account of irregular protection being afforded to Moorish subjects, the Vizir transmits a letter from the Governor of a district in Reef to the Sultan, in which he reports the proceedings of a Moor, named Hamu, who had been employed as collector of taxes in that province. This Moor was granted protection by the French Minister and sent back to Reef, where he is actively engaged in stirring up rebellion.

The Vizir informs me that the Sultan has directed him to request me to confer with Cid Mohammed Bargash, and also to speak with M. Ordega on this subject. In case I do not accede to this request, the Vizir asks for my advice how they should proceed to remedy the evil complained of.

I have the honour to transmit the translation of the reply I have addressed to the Vizir in the form of a private and confidential letter, and I trust the advice I have given may meet with your Lordship's approval.

The complaint about the proceedings of Hamu, who had been placed in a most irregular manner under French protection by M. Ordega, had already been brought forward by the Sultan, when he directed last spring that representations should be made to M. Ordega regarding the protection afforded to the Shereef of Wazan. The complaint was presented to M. Ordega, but it does not appear that any satisfaction was obtained.

I cannot believe that the French Government could have authorized M. Ordega to act as it is alleged he has done in affording protection to Hamu, and sending him back to Reef to stir up rebellion; but there is no doubt in my mind that M. Ordega's aim has been, and still is, to create such a state of affairs in this country as may tend to destroy all Government, and the slender power of control which the Sultan still retains over the unruly tribes in the Reef and elsewhere; to prepare the country, in fact, for carrying out the ambitious views which he and many other persons in France make no secret of entertaining.

In support of this supposition I will now relate the language held by a foreigner, an intimate friend of M. Ordega's, to my informant, an officer of rank. "After all," he said, "Sir John Hay was right in taking steps to prevent the Shereef of Wazan's attempt to raise a rebellion against the Sultan, and to place himself on the throne. M. Ordega told me months ago, when the Anjera tribes and others had been induced to declare themselves ready to support the pretensions of the Shereef of Wazan, that he (M. Ordega) was confident that the insurrection would spread, that the Shereef had only to march towards Fez, and the whole country would rise against the Sultan; and that, with 2,000,000 francs, which he would be enabled to supply, and the appearance of a French army on the frontier, the Shereef of Wazan would become Sovereign of the country, which would be placed under a French Protectorate."

That game, however, has been played out, and M. Ordega's expectations have not been realized. My object in giving this information is to show your Lordship that I am justified in considering M. Ordega a most dangerous person, and I firmly believe that if he remains he will continue to seek for a pretext to bring about hostilities between France and Morocco when the fitting moment arrives, and France has not her hands so full as at the present time. M. Ordega makes no secret of his conviction that he would have the support and approval of the French people by pursuing a vigorous policy, and that the French Government would be compelled also by circumstances to accept and approve a *fait accompli*.

I shall vigilantly watch M. Ordega's proceedings, and continue to do all in my power to prevent any act on the part of the Sultan or his Government which might give the French Government or M. Ordega any pretext for a quarrel.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 52.

The Vizir Mokhtar to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(Translation.)

(Private.)

(After compliments.)

November 17, 1884.

WE received your private letter announcing your safe arrival at Tangier, and also the arrival of a French iron-clad for the object you explain, and stating that you have heard that the French Minister has various complaints, amongst them the arrest of two Algerines. We have learnt all that you point out in urging that these affairs be promptly settled, and that the authorities of His Shereefian Majesty should be careful to abstain from laying hands upon foreign subjects or persons under protection, for such proceedings might at any time bring about a rupture of relations with some friendly Power.

We communicated your letter to His Shereefian Majesty, who has had under his consideration all that you have stated. His Majesty is pleased, as we also are, O friend, to learn of your safe arrival. His Shereefian Majesty ordered us to reply regarding the arrest of the Algerines, and to recount the truth as to what has happened, which is as follows:—

The butchers of Fez, especially those under foreign protection, commit infractions of the law, and are engaged in fraud and irregularities, selling meat at the prices they choose without regard to the price fixed by the Governor of the Market; * they refuse to

* The prices of meat, bread, &c., are always fixed by the "Governor of the Market."—J. H. D. H.

obey him or any one else. His Shereefian Majesty issued an Order to the Governor of the city to send the butchers, protected and unprotected, to the Shereefian Court, in order that an inquiry should be made into the conduct of them all, for some of the protected persons are innocent of these offences.

The butchers were brought to the Court, and amongst them the two Algerines, as above mentioned. These latter indulged in offensive and insolent language; one of them, Sabahy, is not a butcher, but merely an associate of the butchers, who encourages them to resist the orders of the authorities. His Majesty ordered that these two men should be arrested with the others as a punishment, to check their insolence to authorities, and unjust conduct towards the inhabitants. Some of the protected persons are in the habit of receiving bribes from the tradesmen, to support them in resisting the authorities in their efforts to check irregularities and fraud. You must be aware that to pass unnoticed such conduct would lead to the destruction of all authority, and to serious troubles, for should those who are not protected have grounds for complaint against a protected person, and present their complaint to the authorities, and find that the latter are powerless to act, and that justice could not be obtained, they might then seek to take the law into their own hands to revenge themselves, and subsequently escape from the town; then the protected person would declare that the Government is to be held responsible.

Taking such a state of affairs into consideration, the authorities have arrested protected persons for the commission of irregularities, as they considered the responsibility of arresting them was preferable to the responsibility which would be incurred if a protected person was injured or killed. Moreover, if the Governor of the Market cannot control the acts of protected persons like butchers, and they sell and buy as they choose contrary to established regulations, and prices are demanded, for instance, at a shop, which give rise to disputes and affrays on the part of the inhabitants, upon whom is the responsibility to fall should a protected person wound or kill any one? The Government might make representations to obtain justice and ask that protection be withdrawn, but the demand might be refused and disputes would ensue, and false documentary evidence be produced on behalf of the protected person.

For instance, as regards irregular protection, we have to make known what occurred in the case of Mohammed Hamu, the Alkalayan. The Governor of Oochda had arrested him by order of His Shereefian Majesty, on account of his misconduct in extorting large sums of money from the tribe of Alkalaya,* where he was then employed by His Majesty as a collector of revenue; he had also brought about opposition to the authority of the Governor. This man was sent to Tangier via Ghazowat† lest he should escape, as might have happened had he been sent by land to the Shereefian Court. Then a French merchant of that place (Ghazowat) presented a claim of 8,000 dollars against him (Hamu), the real object being to get him out of the hands of His Shereefian Majesty's Government. The French Governor of Tlemsen took him (Hamu) into custody until he should pay the money, when, he said, he would be handed over to the Moorish Government. A discussion took place on this subject with the French Minister at Tangier, who caused Hamu to be delivered up to the Government, saying that he had become responsible that the money should be paid to the merchant; he therefore required that orders should be sent to the Governor of Alkalaya and to the collectors of revenue to sell Hamu's property in that district. This was done, but the money realized by the sale of the property did not amount to the sum claimed; then Hamu was ordered to make up the difference, upon which Hamu declared he did not owe this money. An investigation took place, and it was found that Hamu's statement was correct, and the Minister required that Hamu should be brought to Tangier. This was agreed upon, and Hamu was sent in irons by the Government to the Minister, in order that he might settle with the merchant. The French Minister required that he should pay what the merchant declared was still owing, or that he would be given up again to His Shereefian Majesty's Government. Hamu then paid the money, and the French Minister set him at liberty, giving him protection contrary to all right and to Treaty, and sent him back to the tribe of Alkalaya to create disturbances and insurrection.

Representations have repeatedly been made that Hamu is creating disorder and inciting revolt, and should therefore be delivered up to the Government, but no attention has been paid, and Hamu remains there continuing to foment troubles. Amongst other evidence you will see from the inclosed copy of a letter from the Governor, Kaid Mokhtar Algham, of Alkalaya, how Hamu is engaged in fomenting discord and dissension between the tribes of Alkalaya and Jama Alfoof, with the intention of bringing about an insurrection, and also in encouraging the tribe of Beni Boo Yfroof to resist

* Alkalaya is a district in the Reef.

† In Algeria.—J. H. D. H.

the authority of their Governor, which caused an affray, wherein many were killed and wounded, and others have remained as rebels.

We have made all this known to you, O our friend, to learn what the Government can do, whether they are to shut their eyes and take no notice of these proceedings in fomenting rebellion in Alkalaya, and also in other districts of the Reef, and thus to allow these disorders to extend, or whether they should arrest Hamu, when a question would arise with his protector. Point out to us, O friend, what we are to do. It is on account of proceedings such as these that the Government is disposed to arrest protected persons engaged in creating troubles, as happened in the case of the two Algerines, so as to check an evil. Turn your attention to all this.

Our Lord has ordered us to write to ask that you should take an opportunity of speaking to the French Minister upon this subject, and of pointing out the advisability of his taking steps to check the irregularities of protected persons, and to keep them within the bounds of what is legal, and that Hamu the Alkalayan be handed over to the Government, for if Hamu was delivered up to the Minister, it was in order that he might recover from him what was alleged to be due to the French merchant, and then restore him to the Government. If you cannot accede to this, tell us what we are to do when protected persons infringe the law. Discuss with Cid Mohammed Bargash and with the French Minister as to what is to be done, and we shall feel much obliged.

(Signed) MOHAMMED BEN ALARBY BEN EL MOKHTAR.

Inclosure 2 in No. 52.

Letter addressed by the Governor of Alkalaya, Kaid Mokhtar Alamar, to the Sultan.

(Translation.)

(After preamble.)

Muharrem 11, 1302 (November 1, 1884).

BE it known to our Lord and Master that Mohammed Hamu Alfeclany has, since his return, been fomenting disorders and dissension by his intrigues in Alkalaya, and raising the flame of rebellion. Our Lord the Sultan ordered us to watch his conduct, which we have done. He has been engaged in creating disorders everywhere, and markedly amongst the people of Beni Boo Yfroof, who he induced to rise against their Governor; a fight took place, and there were men killed and wounded.

He gave as an excuse for his conduct that the value of the land which had been bought from him by the Sultan had not been delivered to the Customs authorities near Melilla.

When he was engaged in producing insurrection amongst the Beni Boo Yfroof he encouraged also his brothers of Beni Faklan and Aduya to rise in revolt against their Governors, and he tried to induce my followers to join them. When I heard of this I ordered my followers and brethren to withdraw from him, and to have nothing to do with him; so they told Hamu that they would not join any one without an order from the Sultan, as his (Hamu's) brethren are rebels; they are under the jurisdiction of the Governors of Beni Faklan and Aduya, but he (the Governor) cannot keep them in order. This Hamu will not abandon his revolutionary proceedings, and, as is known, rebellion marches like fire.

We beg of our Lord the Sultan not to permit that Hamu should continue to foment rebellion, and that he be chastised, and that our Lord write to his officer, Kaid Embarak, to report upon his proceedings, and to state who are the rebels, so that they may be arrested, and I shall be ready to assist. We beg also that our Lord should not forget to appoint some one to govern the tribes of Faklan and Aduya; they are the chief promoters of insurrection in Alkalaya.

The officer of our Lord, Hamed Ben el Haday el Setuty, was sent under arrest to the Court of our Lord.

We beg that our Lord order his officer, Kaid el Dublali, to assist me in restoring order, and I will point out to him who are the rebels that should be arrested should His Shereefian Majesty so ordain. Peace.

Note of Vizier at end of this letter.

This copy can be shown to Cid Mohammed Bargash if you think proper.

Inclosure 3 in No. 52.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Vizir.

(Translation.)
(Private and Confidential.)
(After compliments.)

December 1, 1884.

I HAVE received your letter of the 27th Moharrem, in which you relate how it came to pass that two Algerines had been arrested and imprisoned by the authorities at Fez, in consequence of their having infringed certain regulations established by the Government regarding the sale of meat, and for having indulged in offensive language when they were brought before the authorities. You point out that, unless Moorish officials have the power to repress offences against the law, there will be an end of all government in the country, and very serious consequences may ensue. You give as an instance of the evil of irregular protection being afforded to Moorish subjects that of Hamoo, the Akkalayan, who was formerly a collector of revenues in the Riff, and had been arrested by orders of the Sultan on account of extortion and other irregularities committed by him, but had subsequently been delivered up to the French Minister at Tangier, at his demand, on account of the claim of a French merchant, and that, when a settlement took place, the French Minister released Hamoo, gave him protection, and sent him back to Riff, where he has been fomenting disorders and rebellion.

With regard to the arrest of the two Algerines, I have learnt with satisfaction that they were released by order of the Sultan, and were delivered up to the French Minister, and that this question has been amicably settled and friendly relations resumed.

I perfectly understand the perplexing position, as described by you, in which Moorish authorities may occasionally be placed, by not having proper power of control over foreign subjects or protected persons who commit offences against the law or police regulations in the interior, where no Consul resides to whose Tribunal, according to Treaty, such cases should be referred; but in the case of the two Algerines I must frankly point out that, after late events respecting the Shereef of Wazan and the steps taken by the Sultan to put down the insurrection in Angera, which, as it was to be expected, had been excessively displeasing to the French Minister, it was rash and most imprudent on the part of the Moorish authorities to give just ground for complaint by the arrest of a French subject, in direct contravention of Treaty stipulations.

You appeal to me, as a friend, for my opinion, and as a friend I have therefore to point out that your proper course, when the Algerines were summoned to the Court in company with other offenders, was, after taking a formal deposition regarding the offences committed by the culprits and of their indecorous language, to have dismissed them from the Court, and to have transmitted at once to the Moorish Minister at Tangier a complaint to be presented to the French Minister, with a request that the offenders be punished for their misconduct, and that they should be required for the future to conform themselves with the established regulations of police. In cases of murder, robbery, or other grave crime, committed by a foreign subject or protected person in the interior, where no Consul resides, I admit that immediate arrest may be necessary; but in such cases the culprits, when arrested, should be sent at once to Tangier, or to the nearest port where a Consul resides, with a proper supply of food, and all harsh treatment should be avoided; and that on delivery over to the Consul, through the Moorish Minister or Governor of the port, evidence of the charges made against the prisoner should be presented.

With regard to Hamoo, the Akkalayan, I consider, according to the narrative you give me and the contents of the letter of the Governor of Akkalaya, that the Sultan has just grounds for complaint that this person should have been liberated and taken under protection by the French Minister, and then sent back to the Riff, where it is declared he has fomented disorders and insurrection.

I regret that I cannot accede to the wish expressed by His Shereefian Majesty that I should take an opportunity of speaking to the French Minister upon this subject, for no beneficial result would be brought about by such a step; but I have communicated to Cid Mahommed Bargash your letter and inclosure, as requested; and he agrees with me in thinking that it is advisable not to bring this complaint under the notice of the French Minister immediately after the settlement of the late differences, but that such a step be deferred for three or four weeks, which will give time to His Shereefian Majesty to send special instructions to Cid Mahommed Bargash after the receipt of this letter.

I cannot suppose, if there be no other motive than that you have assigned, as having caused the French Minister to afford Hamoo protection, in such an irregular

manner contrary to the Madrid Treaty, that the French Government can have authorized M. Ordega to take such a step, and that, under any circumstances, since it is declared Hamoo is fomenting disorders in the Riff, I am led to hope that orders will be given for the withdrawal of protection. Under these circumstances, it would be advisable that Cid Mohammed Bargash, in bringing this complaint under the notice of the French Minister, should do so in a note or Memorandum, and to request M. Ordega to forward it to the Government at Paris. The language employed in asking for justice should be guarded and moderate, accompanied by an expression of the conviction of the Sultan that satisfaction will be afforded by the French Government by the withdrawal of protection from Hamoo.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 53.

Viscount Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 11.)

(No. 706.)

Paris, December 10, 1884.

My Lord,

M. DE BALASCHANO, the Roumanian Minister here, told me this afternoon that he understood that the French Government intended to transfer to Bucharest M. Ordega, now French Minister in Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 54.

Earl Granville to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 49.)

Foreign Office, December 12, 1884.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador in Paris relative to the reported intention of the French Government to transfer M. Ordega from Morocco to Bucharest.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 55.

Mr. J. A. Campbell, M.P., to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.—(Received December 13.)

My Lord,

Stracatters, Brechin, December 12, 1884.

I HAD the honour of addressing your Lordship on the 22nd July last on the subject of the grievance of the trustees of the English Church at Tunis, in being threatened with the loss of a piece of ground which had been given to them as a site for a parsonage. I was favoured with a reply from the Foreign Office, of date the 1st August.

According to information which I have received from Tunis, it would appear that the circumstances of the case have not been quite correctly apprehended in the reply made to me by the Foreign Office, and I therefore venture respectfully to submit wherein the statement in that reply is at variance with the information I have received.

The letter from the Foreign Office says that it was "owing to the neglect of the trustees, who were formerly in possession, to inclose the ground in proper time," that the French claimant, M. Rougerol, "obtained possession of it, and thereby acquired all the legal advantages which accrue to the person in possession in a suit before the Sharâa respecting a title to land, among which is the right of retaining possession until a judgment is obtained against him."

I am informed that soon after its being presented to the trustees the land was inclosed by a wooden fence, 6 feet high, with door, lock, and key, and that it remained so inclosed until the late acting chaplain, Rev. E. B. Frankel, now of Saltburn-on-the-Sea, left Tunis. That after Mr. Frankel had left, and before the present chaplain,

* No. 53.

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Mr. Reichardt, arrived, this fence was stolen; but that a British guard from the Consulate was placed on the ground. That soon after his arrival, Mr. Reichardt proceeded to have a wall built to inclose the ground, and that while this work was going on he was interfered with by the authorities, and obliged to stop the work. That a formal undertaking was then entered into by Her Britannic Majesty's Representative, Mr. Reade, and the French Resident Minister, M. Cambon, that neither party should occupy the ground until the question of property should be settled by the competent Tribunal, and that this undertaking was made by the British and the French Representatives in the most formal way, and so as to be binding on the trustees of the English Church on the one hand, and on M. Rougerol on the other. That on this agreement being completed, Mr. Reichardt dismissed his workmen, and the British guard was withdrawn.

The trustees consider that they were in possession when the agreement was made, and that M. Rougerol's taking possession afterwards in violation of the formal agreement ought not to be allowed to stand to their prejudice in the suit as regards title to the property. They feel, therefore, that they are entitled to the position of defendants in any suit on the subject before the Court Sharāa.

I believe that since the date of the letter I have referred to, further communications on the subject must have been received from Tunis by the Foreign Office. I venture therefore respectfully to express the hope that such further communications may have modified the views of the Foreign Office as to what may competently be done by the Foreign Office to prevent the threatened injustice and injury to the trustees of the English Church at Tunis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ALEX. CAMPBELL.

No. 56.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received December 15.)

(No. 108.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 48 of the 22nd ultimo, directing me to press energetically upon the Moorish Government the necessity for a searching inquiry into the state of the prisons in which debtors are confined, and for the adoption of a careful system of supervision, such as may insure the adoption of adequate measures to prevent the ill-treatment of prisoners at Daralbaida.

Before renewing the officious representations I have made to this Government regarding the deplorable state of prisons and the ill-treatment of prisoners, I have thought it advisable to await the replies of British Consular officers to a Circular I have addressed them, requesting that they transmit me full Reports upon this subject, and that they do all in their power to induce the authorities, through friendly but firm language, to improve the state of the prisons, and to mitigate the sufferings of those who are confined therein, more especially of debtors, and that each Consular officer should report to me the result of his officious intervention.

When I receive these Reports I shall be better enabled to make a representation to the Sultan, and to notify to His Shereefian Majesty the names of the authorities who, as I shall have then learnt, have neglected to pay attention to the officious and friendly remonstrances of the Consular officers, who have been instructed to obtain the adoption of measures for improving the state of the prisons and the better treatment of prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 57.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received December 15.)

(No. 50.)

My Lord,

A QUESTION having been raised as to the privilege which foreign Representatives in this country have hitherto enjoyed of exemption from the payment of Custom-house charges on provisions and other effects imported for their personal use or disposal, I have

Tunis, December 10, 1884.

the honour to submit the accompanying copies of two letters which have passed between M. Cambon and myself on the subject.

A communication, similar to that which I received, was addressed by M. Cambon to each of the other Representatives.

The claim which is now for the first time put forward by the Tunisian Government of inspecting parcels arriving to the address of foreign Representatives, is resented by the latter as an infringement of rights which they hold to be guaranteed by Treaty and long-established international usage. After discussion of the question, at a meeting which had been convened by the Doyen of the corps, an understanding was come to between the Chargé d'Affaires and Consul-General of Spain, the Agent and Consul-General of Italy, the Consul-General of Austria, and myself, to reply to M. Cambon's Circular, in terms more or less identical with those which are expressed in the paper that forms the second inclosure of this despatch. In the notes, however, of my colleagues a protest was added against the application to them of the Anglo-Tunisian Treaty.

Some of those who attended the meeting were apparently disposed to adopt a more energetic and independent attitude; but, on my declining to take any step which was not subject to reference to your Lordship, they consented to the milder course ultimately pursued.

It may be urged, as an excuse for the Custom-house inspection now claimed, that the privilege of immunity from taxation is susceptible of abuses which, without the right of inspection, it may be difficult, if not impossible, to check.

That such abuses have been committed, and to a considerable extent, is, I believe, very probable; and so long as "Consuls de Carrière" are sent here without a farthing of salary, and (Consular jurisdiction having come to an end) not even the chance of exacting fees from the limited colony that recognizes their authority, they are, I am afraid, likely to continue. But that because, owing to his situation in a financial point of view, one of the Consuls should be held in suspicion, an affront such as is involved in the enactment which is now communicated to us should be offered to the remainder of the corps of foreign Representatives is, it appears to me, as intolerable as it is unwarranted.

I am, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 57.

M. Cambon to Mr. Reade.

M. l'Agent et Consul-Général,

Tunis, le 7 Décembre, 1884.

LE Gouvernement Tunisien m'adresse pour vous être transmis les imprimés ci-joints destinés à la mise à exécution de l'Article III du Traité du 19 Juillet, 1875, ainsi conçu:—

"No prohibition nor tax shall be put upon the provisions, furniture, or any other articles which may come to the said British Agent and Consul-General, Consuls or Vice-Consuls, for their own use and for the use of their families, upon their delivering to the officer of the Customs a note under their hand, specifying the number of articles which they shall require to be passed on that ground, but this privilege shall only be accorded to Consular officers who are not engaged in trade."

Le Gouvernement Tunisien me fait observer que la franchise des droits d'importation étant une faveur toute personnelle, la déclaration doit être signée par vous-même, et qu'elle n'enlève pas au service de la Douane le droit de visiter les colis déclarés.

Les agents de cette Administration ont été prévenus qu'en dehors de vous, vos subordonnés dont les noms suivent sont appelés à jouir de la même faveur:—

Mr. Arpa, Consul-Juge à Tunis.

Mr. Cubisol, Vice-Consul à la Goulette.

Je vous serai, en conséquence, obligé de vouloir bien leur faire adresser quelques-uns des imprimés ci-joints.

Agréé, &c.
(Signé) PAUL CAMBON.

* The Greek Consul is in this position.—T. F. R.

Inclosure 2 in No. 57.

Mr. Reade to M. Cambon.

Tunis, le 9 Décembre, 1884.

M. le Ministre,
J'AI reçu la note que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser en date du 7 courant, accompagnée de 110 imprimés.

Les dispositions que le Gouvernement Tunisien a cru pouvoir prescrire à l'Administration des Douanes relativement à l'application de l'Article III du Traité Anglo-Tunisien du 19 Juillet, 1875, me paraissent peu conformes aux immunités et privilèges dont je jouis en ce pays.

Je dois donc vous déclarer, M. le Ministre, qu'avant de connaître l'opinion de mon Gouvernement, auquel je m'en réfère, je ne saurais pas admettre, sans la plus formelle réserve :—

1. Que la franchise en Douane soit une faveur toute personnelle, étant, au contraire, un privilège inhérent à mon caractère officiel.

2. Qu'aucune Administration ne puisse, par la visite des colis à mon adresse, mettre en doute l'exactitude d'une déclaration signée par moi.

Je ne saurais terminer cette note, M. le Ministre, sans vous exprimer combien j'aurais été heureux si, avant d'adopter des mesures semblables, le Gouvernement Tunisien eût cru bien de permettre qu'ils fussent soumis à l'appréciation de mon Gouvernement.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) THOS F. READE.

No. 58.

Earl Granville to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 50.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 15, 1884.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatch No. 107 of the 1st instant, inclosing copy of a letter from the Vizir describing how it came to pass that the two Algerines were arrested by the Moorish Government, and the difficulties with which the Moorish Government has to contend on account of the irregular protection which is extended by foreign Representatives to Moorish subjects; and I have to state to you that your proceedings in the matter, as reported in your above-mentioned despatch, are approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 59.

Sir R. Morier to Earl Granville.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 21.)

(Telegraphic.)

Madrid, December 16, 1884.

"IMPARCIAL" of to-day announces that Spain has taken possession of coast between Capes Bojador and Blanco, North-west Africa.

No. 60.

Memorandum by Sir E. Hertslet.

THE clause in the Treaty with Tunis of the 19th July, 1875, is correctly quoted by Mr. Reade, and he is also correct in stating that the privileges which he enjoys in Tunis are not personal to himself, but are conferred upon him, and all other British Consular Representatives in Tunis, by Treaty stipulation. So long, therefore, as other foreign Consuls continue to enjoy these Customs privileges, I think the British Consuls in Tunis would have a right to claim them, since our Treaty of 1875 says: "The British Consuls, Vice-Consuls, and Consular Agents shall continue to enjoy, in the most ample sense, all the privileges and immunities which are now, or may be hereafter, accorded to the Consuls, Vice-Consuls, and Consular Agents of the most favoured nation."

Still, as Mr. Reade says he believes abuses have been committed, and are still committed to a considerable extent, it is not surprising that the Tunisian Government should be anxious to prevent their continuance as far as possible, and as the Customs authorities do not suggest any curtailment of the privileges conferred upon non-trading Consuls, beyond examining the parcels addressed to them, in order to see whether they are really intended for their use, I do not see that such a step is deserving of being called "as intolerable as it is unwarranted."

Hitherto, the Consular Declaration has been deemed sufficient, but when gross abuses are committed, it seems somewhat unfair towards the Tunisian Customs authorities to stand in the way of their detecting fraud.

I believe in Turkey, one man, a Greek, for instance, gets named Consular Agent for several foreign countries, and as every foreign Consul is allowed to import free of duty a certain number of oke of tobacco for his own use, this person demands the right to import the same quantity of tobacco for the several countries which he represents, and then having imported it all free of duty, he opens a tobacco-shop in the very face of the authorities. Abuses such as this may possibly exist in Tunis.

E. H.

Foreign Office, December 17, 1884.

No. 61.

Sir R. Morier to Earl Granville.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 143.)

My Lord,

Madrid, December 16, 1884.

THIS morning's "Imparcial" contains a lengthy article, of which I shall have the honour to forward a translation with observations to-morrow, announcing that Spain has taken possession of 500 kilom. of coast-line in North-western Africa. The territory occupied is described as extending in a southerly direction from Cape Bojador to Cape Blanco.

From information I have since received, I have reason to believe that the statement of the "Imparcial" is correct.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. B. D. MORIER.

No. 62.

Earl Granville to Sir R. Morier.

(No. 149.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 19, 1884.

I HAVE to request you to furnish me with all the information you can obtain relative to the statement contained in the "Imparcial" newspaper to the effect that Spain has taken possession of the coast of North-west Africa, between Capes Bojador and Blanco, as reported in your telegram No. 21 of the 16th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 63.

Earl Granville to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 51.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 19, 1884.

UNDER the circumstances explained in your despatch No. 108 of the 6th instant, your action in postponing for a time further representations to the Moorish Government upon the subject of the state of the prisons in Morocco is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

*Earl Granville to Sir J. Drummond Hay.**

(No. 52.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 19, 1884.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 45 of the 13th November last, I transmit herewith, for your information, copy of a telegram, as marked in the margin,† reporting a statement made by the "Imparcial," to the effect that Spain has taken possession of the coast of North-west Africa, between Capes Bojador and Blanco.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Sir J. Pouncefote to Sir R. Herbert.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 19, 1884.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, copy of a telegram, as marked in the margin,† reporting a statement made by the "Imparcial" newspaper, to the effect that Spain has taken possession of the coast of North-west Africa, between Capes Bojador and Blanco.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

Sir J. Pouncefote to Mr. J. A. Campbell, M.P.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 19, 1884.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, reverting to the question which has arisen between the trustees of the British Church at Tunis and M. Rouquerol, a French subject, respecting a plot of ground adjoining the British Church.

In reply, I am to inclose, for your information, extract from a despatch addressed to Mr. Reade, Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Tunis, in September last,‡ in which you will find recorded the views of Her Majesty's Government with regard to this case.

The question is, in fact, one which can only be dealt with by the competent Tribunals.

I am to add that since the date of Lord Granville's instruction above referred to Mr. Reade has reported that he is informed on the best authority that the French Tribunals would plead incompetency if the case were submitted to them, as it is one which pertains exclusively to the jurisdiction of the local authority.

On the other hand, it would appear that the trustees decline to proceed before the competent native Tribunal, and under these circumstances Mr. Reade is of opinion that there would be no advantage in prosecuting the matter further.

Lord Granville entirely concurs in this opinion.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

Sir R. Morier to Earl Granville.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 144.)

My Lord,

Madrid, December 17, 1884.

IT has been believed for some time that measures were in contemplation for the acquisition by Spain of a considerable portion of the coast of North-west Africa, and it was known that the Spanish African Society had sent out an exploring expedition to

* Also to Sir E. Malet (No. 403).

† To Mr. Reade, No. 36, September 23, 1884.

‡ No. 59.

those regions. Notwithstanding this, the public have been very much taken by surprise by the appearance of an article in the "Imparcial," a quasi-independent journal which, as such, is used by the Government for the conveyance of any remarkable intelligence which they do not desire to have the appearance of themselves communicating to the public, announcing that possession had actually been taken of a line of coast 500 kilom. in length, opposite the Canary Islands, between Cape Bojador to the north, and Cape Blanco to the south. The taking possession of this territory, the value of which appears to consist wholly in the important fisheries on the coast, and in the opening up of commercial relations with the interior, has as yet consisted only in the establishment of fishing stations at three points, which have been respectively named Villa-Cisneros, Puerto Badia, and Medina-Gatell, by the Hispano-African Commercial Company, jointly with the Spanish African Society above referred to, and the formal hoisting of the Spanish flag over these stations. The Hispano-African Commercial Company have in addition stationed two schooners at Villa-Cisneros and Medina-Gatell respectively.

I am able to state, though I have not yet had the opportunity of speaking with the Minister of State, that the Spanish Government intend almost immediately to declare the assumption by Spain of the official Protectorate over this region.

I have the honour to transmit herewith the inclosed translation by Mr. Hardinge of the article which appeared on this subject in the "Imparcial."

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. B. D. MORIER.

Inclosure in No. 67.

Extract from the "Imparcial" of December 15, 1884.

(Translation.)

NEW TERRITORY FOR SPAIN.—We have to communicate to our readers a piece of news, very gratifying to our patriotic feelings.

The expedition sent by the Spanish Society of Africanists ("Sociedad Española de Africanistas") to the coast of the Sahara region in connection with the Canary Islands and African fisheries, have just acquired for our country over 500 kilom. of coast, extending from Cape Bojador to south of Cape Blanco. This coast includes (besides others) the important Bays of Garnet, Angra de los Caballos, Rio del Oro, Ciutra, San Ciprian, and El Galgo.

The natives have placed themselves under the protection of the Spanish Government. The Society, on its side, has concluded Treaties with them, and has at once proceeded to the commercial occupation of the country.

At the date of our latest news three fishing stations had already been established as the nucleus for the same number of towns, destined in the future to a great development; one is in the peninsula of Rio del Oro, another in the Bay of Ciutra, a third in one of the natural harbours of Cabo Blanco. These three establishments have been respectively named Villa-Cisneros, Puerto Badia, and Medina-Gatell. They each consist of a temporary wooden building, as a store for goods, provisions, and fishing material. Each is managed by a commercial agent, and defended by a small garrison of armed men. In all three the Spanish flag has been hoisted with due solemnity.

Simultaneously with this occupation by the Spanish Society of Africanists and Colonists, the Hispano-African Commercial Company ("Compañia Comercial Hispano-Africana") established at Madrid has stationed a pontoon; the schooner "Inés" in the waters of Villa-Cisneros (Rio del Oro), and another, the "Libertad," at Medina-Gatell (Cape Blanco). The two Canary African Fishery Companies propose shortly to construct extensive buildings at both these points for the drying and salting of fish, and the manufacture of preserved fruits, gums, and guano.

The Spanish Society of Africanists will further establish in the remaining bays along the coast, which are suitable for fisheries, and for trade with the natives, similar Settlements to those already founded, and will substitute stone buildings for the wooden ones which it has temporarily erected.

The "Boletín de la Sociedad Geografica de Madrid" will issue a map giving the new acquisitions of Spain.

The immense importance of the coast comprised between Capes Bojador and Blanco, henceforth under the dominion of Spain, was referred to in the Spanish Congress for Colonial and Commercial Geography ("Congreso Español de Geografía Colonial y Mercantil") by travellers well acquainted with the coast of the Sahara, such as Captain La Puente and Señor Ricart y Giralt. The favourable reports of these travellers were

speedily confirmed by foreign geographers, and it does credit to the activity of the Spanish Society of Africanists that its expedition should have arrived in good time, and should have been the first to occupy this region, the importance of which had been emphasized for several months past in all the scientific papers throughout Europe.

Not long ago a Frenchman, M. Bunge, wrote as follows in the "Revue de Géographie":—

"One of the best natural harbours on the north-west coast of Africa lies forgotten, like a pearl at the bottom of the sea. Which of the nations of Europe will be the first to take advantage of it? Soon, perhaps, we shall know, for Africa is now, what America once was, the colonizing ground for all the nations. I refer to the valley of the Oro, and to the peninsula which lies at its mouth. That peninsula presents a striking resemblance with the famous Island of Manhattan, on which stands New York, one of the greatest trading centres in the world, and which is certainly worth 1,000,000,000 fr. at the present day, though it only cost its far-sighted founders the sum of 25 fr., which they paid for it to the Red Indians.

"Who knows whether a Colony established on that peninsula might not be destined to become the first port on the continent of Africa? From the naval charts it is easy to see that the peninsula of the Oro has been designed by nature as a haven for navigation and a centre for trade. It is the point whence the nations of Europe may boldly undertake their civilizing conquest of North Africa, and undertake it, moreover, with security, for their base is easy to defend, and its climate is temperate and healthy. Situated close to the shores of the great commercial route of the world (the Atlantic), the peninsula and valley of the Oro are, so to speak, at the gates of Europe, whilst by land they are not many days' distant from the trade routes which traverse northern Africa."

M. Bunge condenses in the above description all that has been said by other geographers, and it is on this account that we quote him.

For Spain, however, these new territories possess a still higher importance than that which foreigners have pointed out. Within their jurisdiction are situated the famous Canary-African fisheries ("pesquerias Canario-Africanas"), a fishery bank over 200 miles in length, and of very great breadth; so rich that in some of the inlets on the coast, as, for instance, in the River Oro, there were caught in three months, and with very primitive nets, 200 tons of herrings and sardines; where cod is more abundant than on the banks of Newfoundland; and where the seas are so calm that during the 400 years that the natives of the Canaries have traversed them in all weathers and in all directions, in vessels of the most wretched kind, there is scarcely any record of a boat having been lost or a life sacrificed. When the fishing industry, which even now produces 2,400,000 pesetas per annum (96,000*l.*) has developed, as it should, a development which requires, as a necessary condition, the occupation of the coast, cod will be able to be sold in Spain at 4 dollars the quintal (*i.e.*, about 17*s.* the cwt.).

The position of the new territories is, at the same time, admirably suited for the establishment of stations for our Royal or merchant navies, being just half way to the Spanish possessions in the Gulf of Guinea, and in an advantageous situation for cruisers going to Central or South America.

From a commercial point of view, moreover, the factories to be established on the coast have more chances than any other of concentrating the trade of the caravans of the interior. This trade will bear more immediate fruits than that of the Congo or the Zambesi, for in the southern part of Africa everything has yet to be done; we have there to deal with savages who are ignorant of the requirements of civilization. The case is different with the Arab tribes of the Sahara and of the Soudan, who are acquainted with, and practise trade and various industries.

The Moors have informed the representatives of the Society of Africanists that if the Spaniards form Settlements on the coast, and a regular trade is established, they will come there to buy and sell from a great distance, and from places two or three months' journey off.

The immense caravans from the Soudan which now proceed to the ports of Morocco will find it more to their advantage to go to the Rio del Oro and to Cape Blanco, for they will save by so doing many days' journey, they will escape the burdensome transit dues which the Sultan of Morocco imposes on them, and they will travel for considerable distances through a fertile and inhabited country, instead of through the desert.

The Hispano-African Company will accordingly this month establish relations with the oasis of Great Adrar, and will ere long found a branch establishment at Timbuctoo, the capital of the Western Soudan.

The imports are colonial produce, especially sugar, cotton goods, silks, iron, steel, and knives, rice, brandy and spirits, dried fish, &c. The exports consist of sheep, cattle

and horses, hides and skins, gums, ostrich feathers, cereals, and large quantities of salt, the latter an article of the greatest importance in connection with the fisheries, &c.

The first discoverers of the Canary-African fisheries were Spaniards; Spaniards have possessed and utilized them, without discussion or rivalry, for the last 400 years.

The coast region now occupied in the name of Spain can give rise to no disputes whatever, either with Morocco, for it lies beyond the jurisdiction of that country, nor with other Powers, for we have no record of its having ever been previously taken possession of.

The newly acquired territory will be rendered complete by the occupation of Ifni, an occupation which we trust will not long be delayed.

To consolidate our new acquisitions and render them serviceable to our industrial and manufacturing interests, and to the merchant shipping of the Peninsula and Canaries two things are requisite: first, that the manufacturers of Malaga, of Catalonia, and of Biscay, together with the shipping trade, should develop the market, treading the path thrown open to them by others (with the certainty of obtaining increased profits for their capital), and relieving the Society of Africanists of a duty so alien and unsuitable to its objects; and secondly, that the Government should place detachments of soldiers in the factories and fishing stations now and in the future to be founded, and afford them efficient protection, more than ever necessary in their beginnings, against the depredations of the nomad tribes of the interior. On its side, the Africanist Society will carry into effect the exploration of the two oases of Adrar, and of the extensive region of the Tiris, which lies between the oases and the coast, and is capable in parts of being colonized by Spain.

(The article closes with expressions of satisfaction at the patriotism and energy displayed by the Spanish Colonial Companies.)

No. 68.

Messrs. R. C. Bowker and Co. to Earl Granville.—(Received December 20.)

Didsbury, Manchester, December 18, 1884.

My Lord,

WE wrote to Foreign Office in the early part of the year 1880 as to James Curtis' claim against the Moorish Government for damage done in 1874, valued in 1876 at 1,196 dollars (or 239*l.* 4*s.*). We did this because we had been advised that the British Consuls at Mogador and Tangier did not appear to stir in the matter. The result of this was only a series of letters—amounting to nothing.

Under date of the 29th May, 1883 (nine years after damage), Mr. Payton advised us that "matters remain *in statu quo*."

In February of this year (1884) we had advice from Mogador that the United States' Consulate had succeeded in obtaining settlement for their subjects, and we at once advised Mr. Payton of this fact.

Under date of the 1st May, 1884, a correspondent in Morocco wrote us: "I have heard, through a most reliable source, that the Moorish Government are going to pay the various British claims, including that of James Curtis. The Americans have beaten us, as usual, as to time. If you hope for speedy settlement, you must get your Foreign Office to put on the needful pressure."

Under date of the 5th June, 1884, Mr. Payton wrote us: "Hearing at the beginning of this year that a claim of a subject of another nation was about to be paid, I made application to the local authorities and to Her Majesty's Legation at Tangier. Having received negative replies, &c., the matter remained *in statu quo* until quite lately, when, hearing from various sources that money had been collected, &c., I have again made application."

Hearing nothing more for nearly five months, we again wrote to Mr. Payton, and in his response, dated the 26th November, 1884, were astonished by—

"I have been constantly stirring in the matter by representations both to the local authorities and to Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier." "With reference to the claim, the Moorish Government have recently caused to be made a new assessment of the damage; the valuation in 1876 was 1,196 dollars (or 239*l.* 4*s.*), whereas this new assessment makes it only 313 dollars (or 62*l.* 12*s.*)." "I have protested against these new valuations, reporting to Her Majesty's Minister, and begging his Excellency to secure, if possible, the maintenance and payment of the original valuation." "I trust that Her Majesty's Minister will press the Moorish Government of the original valuation." "The negotiation may probably take some little time."

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You may imagine what an ordinary British subject would think of such a history as this. The Moorish Government allowed by the British Government to do as it has done in these matters for over ten years.

Our object in thus addressing you (for the second time) on this subject is in the hope that you will now have the goodness to at once take the needful measures to put a more speedy termination to this ten years' trifling than the Consular reports promise.

We are, &c.

(Signed) R. C. BOWKER AND CO.

P.S.—Please forward the inclosed to Mr. Payton. We also inclose envelope which covered his last advices to us, showing the charge of 3d. for postage.

R. C. B. AND CO.

No. 69.

Sir J. Pouncefote to the Law Officers of the Crown and Dr. Deane.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, December 20, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, by direction of the Secretary of State, the despatch noted in the margin,* which relates to a complaint made by the Government of Morocco to Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, respecting the publication in certain newspapers issued at Tangier, of which the editors are British subjects, of articles containing offensive reflections upon the Moorish Government, and upon the foreign Representatives accredited to the Sultan's Court.

It will be seen that Her Majesty's Minister requests instructions for his guidance in the event of the continuance of the practice of which the Moorish Government complain, and that he asks, specifically, to be informed whether the Moorish Government is at liberty to forbid the publication of a newspaper which has given just grounds for offence.

I am, further, to annex a draft of the reply which Lord Granville proposes, with your concurrence, to return to the inquiries made by Sir J. D. Hay.†

A copy of the Treaty between Great Britain and Morocco of the 9th December, 1856, is inclosed, but it does not appear to contain any clause which touches upon the present question.

Copies of previous Law Officers' Reports, relating to cases of a similar character, are also inclosed, together with a short Memorandum drawn up by the Librarian of this Department bearing upon the subject.‡

I am to request that you will take the papers transmitted herewith into your consideration, and inform his Lordship whether you concur in the terms of the proposed instruction to Sir J. D. Hay.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 70.

Mr. Levy to Earl Granville.—(Received December 24.)

My Lord,

59, Fenchurch Street, London, December 22, 1884.

I REGRET to have to trouble you again in the matter of my property at Gabes (Tunis), which has been occupied by French troops for the last three and a-half years, as stated in my previous communication of the 18th December, 1883, and now I have to crave your Lordship's intervention to obtain justice from the French Government.

Mr. Broadley's letter on my behalf, dated the 24th August, 1883, and mine of the 18th December, 1883, to your Lordship, I think have both carried the necessary information to your Lordship. I have not had the honour to receive any communication from the Foreign Office upon this subject, but Mr. Consul Reade, of Tunis, who was in London early this year, informed me that he was going back to Tunis with instructions to settle all pending claims by arbitration. I accordingly made my arrangements to have my case decided in this manner, but up to now nothing has been done.

Arbitrators were agreed upon, and as umpire, I consented to the nomination

* No. 47*.

† To Sir J. D. Hay, December , 1884.

‡ No. 54*.

No. 68*

Memorandum by Sir E. Hertslet.

THE Treaty between this country and Morocco of the 8th April, 1791, shows more clearly than the more recent one of the 9th December, 1856, the conditions upon which British subjects are permitted to visit and reside in Morocco.

It says, Article III, "English subjects visiting or residing in the dominions of the Emperor, and the subjects of the Emperor, visiting or residing in any part of the English dominions, shall not do to each other any harm, offence, or injury, either by word or deed, but shall treat each other with all possible respect and friendship." (Hertslet's Treaties, vol. i, p. 113.)

The General Treaty of the 9th December, 1856, merely says, "His Majesty the Sultan engages that the subjects of Her Britannic Majesty residing in his States or dominions shall enjoy their property and personal security in as full manner as subjects of the Emperor of Morocco are entitled to do within the territories of Her Britannic Majesty;" but although the clause in the Treaty of 1791 is not repeated, it is, I imagine, still binding, inasmuch as the new Treaty did not abrogate any of the old ones.

With regard to the general question of the abuses of the press, it will be remembered that it was the French Plenipotentiaries at the Paris Conference in 1856 who complained of the Belgian publications being "most insulting and most hostile against France and her Government."

E. H.

December 20, 1884.

of a French Judge. The military authorities in Tunis, however, pretend now that any decision of the Arbitrators must be submitted for the approval of the French Minister for War in Paris. Of course, neither my agent, nor my solicitor in Tunis, could agree to this unusual condition, for it is difficult to see the advantage of an arbitration, if the French Minister reserves to himself the right of rejecting the award.

I beg to inclose three documents, say two communications from my Tunis solicitor, on my behalf, to Mr. Consul Reade, and one from Lieutenant-Colonel Gripois, representing the French authorities, to my solicitor, and I beg your Lordship to return me these documents after perusal.

My case has been pending for three and a-half years, causing me a great loss of business and inconvenience, and I beg your Lordship to consider what steps can be taken to induce the French Government to settle the matter. I am willing to take back my property if evacuated at once; in fact, I would prefer this, or if they insist upon retaining the property, I only desire that a proper valuation of it should be made, but the ridiculously small amount the French military authorities have on past occasions offered to pay is out of all reason.

In the same way, I am entitled to a fair rent for the whole term of occupation of the property by their troops.

I beg your Lordship to render me protection in this matter, and I trust that, under your Lordship's influence, the French Government will grant me a just settlement without further delay.

Praying for an answer at your Lordship's earliest convenience, I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE J. LEVY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 70.

M. Cardoso to Mr. Reade.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

Tunis, le 4 Décembre, 1854.

AU nom de Mr. M. de J. Levy, de Londres, je viens vous prier de vouloir bien faire transmettre, par l'entremise de la Résidence, à M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Gripois, Directeur du Génie en Tunisie, l'acte présent en réponse à sa lettre du 27 Novembre, qu'il a bien voulu m'adresser au sujet de l'affaire relative à une propriété à Gabès appartenant à mon mandant.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Gripois me fait savoir qu'il est d'accord en principe avec nous en ce que cette affaire soit réglée par la voie d'un arbitrage, et qu'il adopte le choix des arbitres proposés. Toutefois, répondant à mon acte précédent du 24 du même mois, il insiste sur ce point, à savoir: que le compromis ne sera définitif que lorsqu'il aura été approuvé par M. le Ministre de la Guerre de France. A ce sujet j'avais soutenu que, puisque l'arbitrage avait été adopté comme moyen de solution de ce différend, ainsi que de quelques autres, par les Cabinets de Paris et de Londres, l'autorisation devait être considérée comme ayant été donnée d'avance par le Ministre Français. Il me serait impossible de satisfaire au désir exprimé par M. le Colonel dans sa lettre, en lui notifiant cette décision, car c'est une de ces mesures dont ordinairement on ne donne pas acte aux privés; mais il n'en est pas moins vrai, comme vous-même avez eu l'occasion de me l'affirmer, qu'elle a été prise d'un commun accord entre les deux Gouvernements, et que cela vous a été confirmé par le Représentant de la France à Tunis.

Toutefois, je ne peux que répéter à ce propos ce que je disais dans ma précédente. Nous regrettons que des formalités quelconques puissent entraver la prompte solution de cette affaire. Si toutefois le Chef du Génie ne se croit pas en condition de donner son acceptation définitive au compromis, nous ne discuterons pas en strict droit ce point, sur lequel il peut dans quelque sorte admettre qu'il veuille exiger un surcroît de précaution afin de n'avoir aucune inquiétude sur la propre responsabilité. Seulement nous le répétons encore une fois; ce que nous désirons, tout au moins, c'est que le compromis soit signé au plus tôt, et que les démarches nécessaires pour obtenir de M. le Ministre son approbation soient aussi faites dans le plus bref délai.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel du Génie soutient aussi que l'arbitrage ne doit porter que sur l'estimation du prix de cession de la propriété de Mr. Levy et non sur le loyer correspondant à l'occupation temporaire de l'immeuble.

Toutefois il serait disposé à admettre que les deux questions soient vidées du même coup en ce sens que les arbitres ne se prononceraient que sur la valeur de l'immeuble; quant à l'indemnité de l'occupation temporaire, elle serait réglée sur la base du revenu calculé au taux de 5 pour cent sur la valeur de la propriété fixée par les arbitres.

Nous devons faire remarquer sur ce point principal que si nous avons consenti à soumettre à un arbitrage la fixation du prix de cession de l'immeuble, c'est là une concession de notre part, et une concession qui devrait être appréciée au plus haut degré. En effet, personne ne saurait nier à nous, propriétaires, le droit d'exiger sans restriction aucune la restitution de notre propriété. Si donc nous n'avons pas fait valoir ce droit incontestable, c'est justement pour ne pas créer des difficultés à nos compétiteurs. Malgré cela, on nous a fait des offres d'achat tout à fait insuffisantes. Des offres également insuffisantes nous ont été faites pour ce qui concerne l'indemnité d'occupation temporaire. C'est bien donc le moins que les deux questions soient soumises aux mêmes arbitres. Ce sera à eux à décider si l'indemnité par nous réclamée est exagérée ou non. Mais nous ne pouvons pas acquiescer à la proposition qui nous est faite, car l'indemnité doit nous représenter ce que réellement nous avons perdu.

J'ai tout lieu d'espérer, après les explications qui précèdent, que le compromis sera prochainement établi sur les bases que nous venons d'indiquer.

Agréer, &c.
(Pour M. de J. Levy),
(Signé) AVO^r. D. CARDOSO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 70.

M. Cardoso to Mr. Reade.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,
Mr. DE J. LEVY, de Londres, par l'entremise du Soussigné, son fondé de pouvoir, a l'honneur de vous exposer—

Que depuis longtemps entre les Cabinets de Londres et de Paris il a été convenu qu'un différend existant entre lui et le Génie Militaire Français au sujet d'un terrain et d'un magasin lui appartenant à Gabès et occupé par les troupes Françaises, serait vidé, ainsi que d'autres affaires pendantes, par la voie d'un arbitrage.

Que, en conformité de cette décision, il avait d'abord nommé pour son arbitre feu M^e Elena, Avocat à Tunis, et que M. le Colonel Gripois, Chef du Génie en Tunisie, par sa lettre du 14 Juin, 1884, lui avait déclaré avoir accepté l'arbitrage et avoir nommé pour son arbitre M^e Létorey, Avocat à Tunis.

Que la mort, tant de l'arbitre, M^e Elena, que de l'avocat de l'exposant, M^e Bensasson, a retardé contre son gré la définition de l'affaire, et que dernièrement il les a substitués par le choix de M^e D. Santillana, comme arbitre, et de M. Cardoso, comme avocat.

Que ce dernier, il y a une vingtaine de jours au moins, a communiqué un projet de compromis à M. le Colonel Gripois par l'entremise de l'avocat du Génie, M^e Brulat.

Mais que, malgré cela, l'affaire en est au même point et M^e Brulat, au nom de M. le Colonel Gripois, demande que l'arbitrage soit soumis à l'approbation du Ministre de la Guerre de France.

Que l'exposant ne comprend pas qu'on en soit encore à exiger l'autorisation du Ministre du moment que l'arbitrage a été consenti par les Cabinets Anglais et Français et que M. le Colonel Gripois a démontré par sa lettre précitée qu'il était déjà à cette époque autorisé par ses supérieurs.

Il vient donc vous prier de vouloir bien faire signifier le présent acte, par la voie de la Résidence, à M. le Colonel Gripois, es qualités, afin qu'il soit régulièrement informé que l'exposant, à titre de condescendance, veut bien consentir un délai de quinze jours pour la formation du compromis sa signature et approbation définitive, mais que passé ce délai sans qu'il soit irrévocablement arrêté et passé entre parties, il proteste dès à présent de tous dommages-intérêts à lui causés par ce retard, et se pourvoiera par toutes les voies que de raison afin de sauvegarder sa situation et d'obtenir une solution conforme à ses droits.

J'ai, &c.
(Pour M. de J. Levy),
(Signé) AVO^r. D. CARDOSO.

Inclosure 3 in No. 70.

Lieutenant-Colonel Gripois to M. Cardoso.

Tunis, le 27 Novembre, 1884.

Monsieur,

J'AI reçu communication d'une copie de la dépêche que vous avez adressée à la date du 24 Novembre courant à M. le Consul-Général de Sa Majesté Britannique à Tunis, en votre qualité de fondé de pouvoir de Mr. M. de J. Levy, de Londres.

Vous exposez dans cette dépêche que depuis longtemps entre les Cabinets de Londres et de Paris il a été convenu que le différend existant entre votre client et le Génie Militaire Français au sujet d'un immeuble sis à Gabès serait vidé par la voie d'un arbitrage. Vous ajoutez que vous ne comprenez pas qu'on en soit encore à exiger l'approbation du Ministre de la Guerre de France, du moment que l'arbitrage a été consenti par les Cabinets Anglais et Français.

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire savoir que je n'ai pas été informé par mon Administration de cet accord entre les deux Cabinets au sujet de l'affaire de Mr. M. de J. Levy. Je vous prierais de me le faire notifier.

Quoiqu'il en soit, je suis loin de revenir, comme vous paraissez le penser, sur les conditions précédemment acceptées, notamment dans ma lettre du 14 Juin dernier, adressée à M^e Bensasson. Je consens toujours à soumettre le différend à un arbitrage. J'adopte le choix des arbitres rappelé dans votre dépêche du 24 Novembre, savoir: M^e D. Santillana, arbitre de Mr. Levy, et M^e Létorey, arbitre de l'Administration. Mais vous n'ignorez pas que les Règlements en vigueur exigent d'une manière absolue que tout contrat passé au nom de l'État par un fonctionnaire au chef de service doit stipuler la réserve de l'approbation du Ministre compétent. Il m'est donc impossible, à moins que vous ne me fassiez donner des instructions formelles qui m'y autorisent, de prendre l'engagement d'exécuter la décision des arbitres avant qu'elle n'ait reçu l'approbation de M. le Ministre de la Guerre.

Le projet de compromis que vous avez communiqué à M^e Brulat m'a paru établir une confusion entre deux créances distinctes poursuivies par Mr. Levy: l'une concerne l'indemnité due pour l'occupation de l'immeuble, l'autre le prix d'achat de la propriété. Afin d'éviter tout malentendu et de me maintenir dans l'esprit d'une décision antérieure de M. le Ministre de la Guerre, dont les offres ont été notifiées à Mr. Levy, qui les a refusées, le 24 Août, 1883, je vous ai fait savoir que l'arbitrage ne portait que sur l'estimation du prix de la cession de la propriété en capital, et non sur le loyer correspondant à l'occupation temporaire de l'immeuble.

Toutefois, comme les termes pressants du dernier paragraphe de votre dépêche du 24 Novembre me paraissent indiquer que votre client aurait le désir d'obtenir à bref délai la liquidation de l'une et de l'autre créance, je suis disposé à admettre que les deux questions soient traitées du même coup par la voie de l'arbitrage dans les conditions suivantes: les arbitres fixeront le prix de la cession de la propriété de l'immeuble, sans y comprendre le loyer correspondant à l'occupation temporaire. Ce loyer sera calculé ensuite comme représentant l'intérêt du prix de la cession depuis le jour de la prise de possession de l'immeuble par les troupes. Le taux de l'intérêt sera le taux légal en matière civile.

Je répète que toutes ces stipulations devront être soumises à l'approbation Ministérielle.

Agréer, &c.
(Signé) GRIPOIS.

No. 71.

Sir R. Morier to Earl Granville.—(Received December 27.)

(No. 145.)
(Extract.)

Madrid, December 24, 1884.

WITH respect to the newly occupied region on the Sahara coast, referred to in your Lordship's despatch No. 149, I can afford at present no fuller information than that contained in the inclosure to my despatch No. 144, but I am taking steps to obtain more precise details on the subject.

I may mention that, in reply to my inquiries, the Minister of State has informed me that the Government are only awaiting the arrival of further accounts from the Society's agents to announce the official assumption of Spanish sovereignty, and that a map is being prepared which will furnish the public with exact information on the subject.

I will take care that your Lordship is supplied with a copy of this map as soon as it appears.

No. 72.

Baron H. de Worms and Mr. Cohen to Earl Granville.—(Received December 27.)

My Lord,

London, December 19, 1884.

WE beg leave to bring under your Lordship's notice the inclosed documents, containing a full account of the terrible persecutions which the Jews of Demnat (Morocco) are suffering at the hands of the despotic local Governor. The reports of these barbarities have, for a considerable time, spread a thrill of horror wherever they have become known. We did not feel justified in addressing your Lordship upon the subject until we had instituted careful inquiries as to the facts alleged. We have ascertained, on inquiry, that the Governor of Demnat continues to exercise an uncontrolled authority, and we fear that the Government of the Sultan of Morocco is not sufficiently informed of the atrocious acts which are practised at Demnat by his representative, and under the guise of his authority.

Under these painful circumstances, we earnestly beg of your Lordship that you will be pleased to direct inquiries to be made into the circumstances which are set forth in detail in the letter from the delegates of the Demnat Jews (see p. 149 of the inclosed extracts), and should it be found, as we have no reason to doubt, that the statements in that letter are correct, we trust that the powerful and beneficent influence of Her Majesty's Government will be employed (as it has been in so many previous cases of a like character) to secure for this weak and unoffending community prompt and effectual protection against their ruthless persecutors.

Commending the matter to your Lordship's wise and humane consideration, we have, &c.

(Signed) H. DE WORMS, *President of the Anglo-Jewish Association.*
ARTHUR COHEN, *President of the London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 72.

Letter addressed to the Committee of Delegates of the Board of Deputies and the Anglo-Jewish Association.

(Translation from the Hebrew.)

Gentlemen,

Tangier, November 28, 1884.

WE entreat you to afford us the benefit of your generous sympathy and influence with a view of mitigating the indescribable troubles and sorrows which have been heaped upon the Jewish community of Demnat. We, the Undersigned (fifty-six), heads of Jewish families, belonging to that unfortunate community, are now refugees in Tangier, and have been so for the last five months. Our community has been reduced to utter destitution in consequence of the barbarities practised by the Mahomedans at the instance and under the direction of the Governor Gilali. Many Demnat Jews have been driven by the persecutors to take refuge in the tents of the Arabs, and their present fate is unknown to us. We are anxiously awaiting your benevolent interposition. Bear in mind that our families, together with the other members of the Demnat community, are exposed without intermission to a renewal of countless atrocities. The night watchmen who are required to keep off all robbers, have been directed to desist from watching over our belongings. We are treated as outlaws. Whoever wishes to insult us does so with impunity.

Oh, fellow men, we have no words to implore your much-needed efforts to rescue us, the oppressed, from our oppressors. Time should not be lost. We can only appeal to our God in heaven, and to the humane feelings which may still exist in this world. Human lives are trembling in the balance! It rests with you to determine whether we, who speak on behalf of 500 families, shall meet with mercy.

If the Governor of Demnat be permitted to continue his cruel acts, the dangers of death will spread amongst the Jews from district to district. The example of the Governor has already had most pernicious and contagious effects.

We address you on behalf of numerous innocent persons, who are pining away in dreary prisons, in which they are laden with heavy iron chains.
(Written in Tangier, and signed by Meir Alchabad and fifty-five other members of the Demnat community.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 72.

Extract from the Monthly Report of the "Alliance Israélite Universelle."

ISRAËLITES DU MAROC.—Les Israélites de Demnat, ville située à quelque distance de Casablanca, sont en butte, depuis quelque temps, aux plus cruels traitements de la part du Gouverneur de cette ville. La communauté, dans l'espoir d'améliorer sa situation, a envoyé une délégation à Tanger pour exposer sa douloureuse situation à Sa Majesté le Sultan ou à ses Ministres. La délégation est partie clandestinement, pendant la nuit, afin de ne pas être remarquée et jetée en prison par le Gouverneur. Depuis le départ des délégués, le Gouverneur a redoublé de cruauté envers les malheureux Israélites restés à Demnat. Le Grand-Rabbin de la ville, un vieillard, a été chargé de fers et exposé tête nue pendant toute une journée aux rayons d'un soleil ardent pour avoir refusé de dresser de faux titres de créance en faveur du Gouverneur contre plusieurs Israélites de la ville; les familles de ceux qui sont partis pour Tanger sont soumises, à ce qu'en dit, aux traitements les plus barbares.

Les délégués de la communauté de Demnat sont à Tanger depuis deux mois. Ils ont fait connaître aux Représentants des Puissances étrangères, par une lettre reproduite dans le "Réveil du Maroc" (No. du 24 Septembre), les mauvais traitements auxquels ils sont soumis.

Voici cette lettre :—

"Messieurs et chers frères,

"Nous Soussignés, Israélites de Demnat, prenons la liberté d'appeler votre attention sur les persécutions dont nous sommes depuis longtemps victimes de la part de notre Gouverneur le Caïd Gilali, dont la tyrannie et les actes barbares nous ont plongé dans un morne désespoir, au point que nous en sommes arrivés à envier le sort des animaux.

"Voici les détails du traitement dont nous sommes l'objet de la part de ce fonctionnaire :—

"1. Tous les Israélites de Demnat doivent servir gratuitement, comme domestiques, le Gouverneur et les gens de sa suite; les hommes sont chargés de balayer les écuries et d'autres lieux immondes. Les soldats qui surveillent le service leur appliquent de temps en temps des coups de bâton. La solde de nos surveillants est à notre charge.

"Nos femmes sont employées à d'autres travaux de ménage, et soumises au même traitement.

"2. Nous sommes obligés de fournir les comestibles et les meubles de la maison du Gouverneur, qui, après une longue attente, nous paye la moitié ou le quart de la valeur de nos fournitures.

"3. Nos bestiaux et nos produits sont frappés de contributions cinq ou six fois plus fortes que celles qui sont établies dans les autres villes du Maroc.

"4. Notre Gouverneur a cédé à un de ses amis, pour une somme de 4,000 fr., un village appelé Tasemit, compris dans sa juridiction et habité par vingt familles Israélites. Leur nouveau maître les a dépouillées de tout ce qu'elles possédaient.

"5. Lorsque le Gouverneur veut vendre les produits de ses fermes, il nous oblige de les prendre pour le double de leur valeur.

"6. Tous les ouvriers Israélites doivent travailler gratuitement pour le Gouverneur.

"7. Nous sommes obligés de prendre à notre charge toutes les fausses pièces de monnaie qu'il reçoit parmi les sommes encaissées pour les impôts.

"8. Nos lits et nos meubles doivent toujours être à la disposition du Gouverneur, qui s'en sert continuellement; il se sert aussi de nos bêtes de somme, sans aucune rétribution.

"9. Il nous oblige à travailler chez lui le Samedi et tous les autres jours consacrés au repos par notre religion.

"Quiconque veut se soustraire à ces vexations est immédiatement roué de coups, chargé de fers, et emprisonné."

Un télégramme de Gibraltar reproduit par le "Temps" du 4 Octobre, annonce que sur les représentations énergiques du Ministre Italien à Tanger, Sa Majesté Chérifienne

du Maroc a destitué et fait mettre en prison le Gouverneur de Demnat. Il serait à souhaiter que cette nouvelle fût confirmée.

Inclosure 3 in No. 72.

Extract from the Monthly Report of the "Alliance Israélite Universelle."

ISRAÉLITES DU MAROC.—Le bulletin du mois d'Octobre a publié des informations détaillées sur les mauvais traitements auxquels les Israélites de Demnat sont en butte de la part du Caïd de cette ville et sur les démarches qui ont été faites à Tanger en faveur de cette communauté. La situation de ces pauvres gens est toujours la même. Voici de nouveaux renseignements à ce sujet :—

"Les délégués de Demnat qui sont à Tanger depuis plusieurs mois pour exposer au Sultan les plaintes de leurs coreligionnaires n'ont pas encore pu obtenir d'audience. A toutes leurs instances, le Grand Vizir répond qu'ils peuvent rentrer en toute sécurité, qu'ils seront accompagnés du Caïd Elbachir Elhabassi qui transmettra au Caïd de Demnat les ordres du Sultan et lui remettra le Firman promulgué en faveur des Israélites de cette ville (Firman qui a été reproduit dans le bulletin d'Octobre).

"Les délégués savent que cette mesure est absolument inefficace pour faire cesser les persécutions dont les Israélites de Demnat sont l'objet depuis plusieurs années. Les Notables de la communauté ont présenté récemment au Caïd le Firman obtenu en faveur des Israélites du Maroc, en 1864, par Sir Moses Montefiore, le Caïd les a fait jeter en prison, où ils sont restés enfermés pendant trois mois et d'où ils ne sont sortis qu'en payant une rançon de plus de 20,000 fr. Les délégués de la communauté à Tanger sont persuadés que, s'ils retournent chez eux, ils iront à une mort certaine tant que le Caïd actuel sera à son poste. Depuis que le Sultan est allé à Fez avec ses Ministres, les délégués de Demnat se sont rendus dans cette ville. Chaque fois qu'ils se sont fait annoncer auprès du Grand Vizir, celui-ci les a fait chasser. Ses soldats transmettent ses ordres en les accompagnant d'injures et de coups de bâton.

"Pendant ce temps, le Caïd traite leurs familles et tous les Israélites avec une cruauté croissante. D'après les lettres envoyées de cette ville et publiées dans le "Réveil du Maroc," du 22 et 29 Octobre, il a fait appeler dernièrement les chefs de la communauté et les a informés que sur l'ordre du Sultan, il n'y aura plus de garde de nuit pour veiller sur le Mellah ("quartier Juif"). Supprimer cette garde, c'était exposer la population Juive aux insultes et à la violence des Musulmans. Les Israélites n'ont pas tardé à subir les funestes conséquences de cette mesure. Les Musulmans ont pénétré dans le Mellah, frappé impunément les Israélites à coups de bâton, dévasté les maisons, pillé les magasins, outragé, violé, et tué les femmes. Une partie de la population Juive s'est sauvée du Mellah et a cherché un refuge dans un sanctuaire Arabe, asile inviolable pour les Musulmans. Ces derniers ont voulu obliger les réfugiés à en sortir, en démolissant les toits des huttes que ces malheureux ont élevées autour de la maison du chef du sanctuaire. Ceux qui ont pas pu trouver un abri, ont pris la fuite et errent dans la campagne. Les cinq synagogues de Demnat sont vides, on ne trouve plus dix personnes pour faire l'office. Les maisons des absents ont été pillées et démolies sur l'ordre du Gouverneur. Ce dernier a fait venir également les débiteurs Arabes des Israélites et les a obligés à verser entre ses mains le montant de leurs dettes. Pendant la fête de Hosanna Rabba, il a également voulu contraindre des 'notaires' Israélites à écrire une déclaration constatant que toutes les plaintes portées contre lui par les Israélites sont dénuées de fondement. Les notaires ont refusé de faire une fausse déclaration; ils ont été bâtonnés et enfermés dans un cachot, au nombre de dix. Les autres notaires effrayés du châtiment infligé à leurs collègues, ont écrit et signé tout ce que le Gouverneur leur a ordonné de faire. Mais, avant de se présenter devant le Caïd, ils ont déclaré devant les représentants de la communauté que 'craignant la torture qu'on leur infligerait en cas de refus, ils font leur présente protestation pour que tout document écrit par eux pour justifier le Gouverneur n'ait aucune valeur.'"

La Junte Israélite de Tanger et les représentants de quelques Puissances Européennes ont essayé par des démarches officieuses de venir en aide aux malheureux Israélites de Demnat; jusqu'à présent, ils n'ont obtenu aucun résultat.

No. 73.

Earl Granville to Mr. Reade.

(No. 40.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, December 27, 1884.

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of Mr. M. de J. Levy's claim arising out of the occupation of his property at Gabes by the French military authorities, I transmit to you herewith copy of a letter from that gentleman, complaining that his claim is still unsettled.*

I have to request you to report to me how this case stands, and I should be glad if you would do your utmost to expedite a settlement of it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 74.

Earl Granville to Mr. Reade.

(No. 41.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, December 27, 1884.

I HAVE had before me your despatch No. 50 of the 10th December respecting the right claimed by the Tunisian Government to inspect parcels arriving at the Custom-house to the address of foreign Representatives at Tunis.

I have now to observe that you are quite correct in stating that the Customs privileges which you enjoy in Tunis are not personal to yourself, but are conferred on British Consular officers in Tunis by Treaty stipulations. So long, therefore, as foreign Consular officers continue to enjoy these Customs privileges, British Consular officers would have a right to claim them under the Treaty of 1875.

It is, however, clear from your Report that abuses have been committed, and are still committed, to a considerable extent, and it is not surprising that the Tunisian Government should be desirous of putting a stop to them as far as possible. It is, moreover, to be observed that the Customs authorities do not suggest any curtailment of the Consular privileges beyond the examination of the parcels addressed to Consular officers, with a view to make sure that such parcels are really intended for the use of the officer to whom they are addressed, and it is undesirable that any action should be taken by Her Majesty's Consuls which might in any way prevent the Customs authorities of Tunis from detecting fraud, so long as Treaty privileges are not infringed.

In making the foregoing observations for your guidance, I desire, at the same time, to explain that the diplomatic position enjoyed by Her Majesty's Agent in Tunis, and admitted by Treaty, entitles him to special consideration at the hands of the Tunisian Government.

You are authorized to make a communication to the Tunisian Government founded upon the foregoing view of the case, and I should be glad if you will report to me the result.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 75.

Sir J. Pouncefote to Mr. de J. Levy.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 27, 1884.

IN reply to your letter of the 22nd instant, I am directed by Earl Granville to inform you that Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Tunis has been instructed to do his utmost to expedite a settlement of your claim on account of the occupation by the French military authorities of your property at Gabes.

The inclosure in your letter under acknowledgment will be returned in due course.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received December 29.)

(No. 51.)

My Lord,

Tunis, December 15, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 8th ultimo, with copy of a letter from M. Giuseppe Pace, of Sfax, who complains that, although orders had some time ago been given for an inquiry to be instituted by the "Khalifa" or Vice-Governor of that town into the circumstances under which his son Ernesto was murdered during the insurrection of 1881, nothing of the kind has taken place, and requests that further representations may be made to the Tunisian Government with a view to enable him to bring one or more of the assassins to justice.

Instructed to report upon the actual situation of the case, I beg to state that, after having vainly endeavoured to obtain compliance with a petition Mr. Pace had addressed for an "Amar Bey," or order under the Bey's signature, for the arrest of any individual whom he might desire to prosecute as the murderer of his son, I succeeded in getting for him an order for the inquiry to be held by the Vice-Governor.

Copies of the letter from the Residency informs me that such an order would be issued, and of the instructions which I accordingly gave to Mr. Vice-Consul Leonardi are herewith respectfully submitted.

It is unfortunately true that, as stated by Mr. Pace, the said inquiry has not yet taken place. M. Cambon, to whose notice I have not failed to bring this matter, has assured me that the delay is explained partly by a change that has occurred in the office of Vice-Governor, and partly by the fact that Mr. Pace has not presented himself to the Vice-Governor, or indicated in any way the party or parties against whom he wishes to take proceedings. He engaged, however, that the order for the inquiry would be immediately repeated, and I have consequently renewed my former instructions to Mr. Leonardi, adding that it is for Mr. Pace to take the initiative in the matter, and produce the information or evidence upon which the proceedings are to be based.

The granting of the "Amar Bey" would have been an unusual act, and I was not therefore justified in insisting upon it. Whether any good result will emanate from the proposed inquiry is, I fear, very doubtful. Under the impression that he would be indemnified by the Sfax Commission for the loss of his son, Mr. Pace did not think of taking proceedings against the assassins until a very considerable time after the occurrence of the murder, and the difficulties of collecting evidence in respect of it or securing the conviction of the guilty parties have materially increased.

Mr. Pace endeavours to show that his son did not meet with his death through any imprudence on his part, and "after the general exodus of Europeans had taken place," and furnishes in support of his assertion a list of Europeans who were still in the town when the tragic occurrence happened. Whether "after" or at the time of the "exodus" does not appear to be material. He does not deny, however, that his son, with many others, had actually embarked on ships in the roadstead, and that the former returned to the shore to buy provisions.

The circumstance of so many Europeans being still on shore unmolested at the time of the murder tends, I fear, to confirm a rumour to which, although widely current, I have never attached importance, that the unfortunate victim provoked his own destruction by some offensive allusion to French authority.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 76.

Baron d'Estournelles to Mr. Reade.

M. le Consul-Général,

Tunis, le 28 Mai, 1884.

J'AI transmis au Gouvernement Tunisien une requête du Sieur Giuseppe Pace demandant qu'il lui soit délivré un "Amra" l'autorisant à faire dresser dans toute la Régence des actes de témoignage à l'effet de constater la culpabilité de quatorze individus dénommés, et d'autres dont les noms ne sont pas donnés, soupçonnés par le pétitionnaire du meurtre de son fils pendant les événements insurrectionnels de Sfax.

Cette requête tend à la fois à la punition des coupables et à l'allocation de dommages au père de la victime.

Sur ce dernier point le Gouvernement me fait connaître que le pétitionnaire a remis entre les mains du Gouvernement de Sfax la déclaration suivante :—

"Le Soussigné, Giuseppe Pace, déclare renoncer à toute réclamation du chef des événements insurrectionnels de Sfax contre remise du mandat dont il donne ci-dessous récépissé."
(Signé) "GIUSEPPE PACE."

Quant aux poursuites criminelles le Gouvernement fait observer que la procédure indiquée par le pétitionnaire n'est nullement propre à amener la découverte de la vérité; il est tout disposé à prescrire au Khalifa de Sfax d'ouvrir une information à laquelle assisterait M. le Vice-Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique dans cette ville, à l'effet de déterminer le caractère du meurtre du Sieur Ernesto Pace, et d'en découvrir les auteurs.

Je vous serai, dans ce but, obligé de vouloir bien inviter le Sieur Giuseppe Pace à produire les indications et renseignements qu'il possède à ce sujet.
Agréez, &c.
(Signé) D'ESTOURNELLES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 76.

Mr. Reade to Vice-Consul Leonardi.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Tunis, May 29, 1884.

I INCLOSE copy of a letter I have received from the Minister of His Highness the Bey with regard to an inquiry which is to be made by the Vice-Governor of Sfax in the matter of the assassination of Ernesto, son of Giuseppe Pace, and at which it will be your duty to be present.

I need scarcely add that you will do all in your power to help Giuseppe Pace in the attainment of his object and bringing the guilty to justice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 77.

Mr. J. A. Campbell, M.P., to Sir J. Pauncefote.—(Received December 29.)

Stracathro, Brechin, December 24, 1884.

Sir,

I BEG to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, with extract from a despatch to Mr. Reade, in reply to my letter of the 12th instant regarding the plot of ground adjoining the English church at Tunis.

I will communicate the reply of the Foreign Office to my correspondent at Tunis. In the meantime I beg to acknowledge, with thanks, the consideration which has been given to my letter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ALEX CAMPBELL.

No. 78.

Mr. Heneage to Sir J. Pauncefote.—(Received December 29.)

Hôtel d'Angleterre, Biarritz, December 27, 1884.

Dear Sir,

MR. MEAKIN sent me a copy of your letter to two editors in Tangier, and placed the matter in my hands.

Sir John Hay tells me, confidentially, that you have papers in the Foreign Office showing that Mr. Meakin defrauded an Indian widow for whom he was trustee.

I have advised Mr. Meakin to publish the circumstances of the case as he related them to me here at Biarritz last April, and I should be glad to hear that Lord Granville can accept Mr. Meakin's statement as satisfactory.

I cannot without a breach of confidence communicate to Mr. Meakin the nature of the charge which you have in the back-ground; and in the event of Lord Granville not being satisfied now with Mr. Meakin's published explanation, I will ask his Lordship's permission to do so.

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Mr. Meakin must then defend himself against your accusation communicated to Sir John Hay, of having defrauded the Indian widow for whom he was trustee.
I inclose copy of a letter to Mr. Meakin of to-day's date.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) C. HENEAGE.

Inclosure in No. 78.

Mr. Heneage to Mr. Meakin.

My dear Sir,

Hôtel d'Angleterre, Biarritz, December 27, 1884.
I HAVE received the "Times of Morocco" for the 18th instant, and I have written to Lord Granville to know whether his Lordship is satisfied with the explanation which you have published, under the heading "A Crushing Letter," in your paper; and as you have placed the matter in my hands, and I am most anxious to act impartially in this misunderstanding, I must ask you to wait now until I have received Lord Granville's reply.

Your paper must not be made use of to attack Sir John Hay in any way; the letter in question was not written by Sir John Hay, but by Lord Granville's directions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. HENEAGE.

No. 79.

Viscount Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 730.)

My Lord,

Paris, December 29, 1884.
WITH reference to my despatch No. 706 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship, extracted from the "Journal Officiel" of this day, a Decree appointing M. Ordega, now French Minister at Tangier, to be Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Republic at Bucharest, in the room of Baron de Ring.

I inclose also a Decree appointing M. Féraud, now French Consul-General at Tripoli, to be Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Republic at Tangier, in the room of M. Ordega.

The "Journal Officiel" of yesterday announced the promotion of Baron de Ring to the rank of Commander in the Order of the Legion of Honour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 79.

Extract from the "Journal Officiel" of December 29, 1884.

LE Président de la République Française,
Sur la proposition du Président du Conseil, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,
Décrète :

Article 1^{er}. M. Ordega (Ladislas-Symphorien-Joseph), Ministre Plénipotentiaire de première classe à Tanger, est nommé Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire de la République Française à Bucharest, en remplacement de M. le Baron de Ring.

Art. 2. Le Président du Conseil, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, est chargé de l'exécution du présent Décret.

Fait à Paris, le 4 Décembre, 1884.

Par le Président de la République :
Le Président du Conseil,
Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,
(Signé) JULES FERRY.

(Signé) JULES GRÉVY.

Le Président de la République Française,
Sur la proposition du Président du Conseil, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,

Décète :

Article 1^{er}. M. Féraud (Laurent-Charles), Consul-Général de France à Tripoli de Barbarie, est nommé Ministre Plénipotentiaire de deuxième classe.

Art. 2. M. Féraud, Ministre Plénipotentiaire de deuxième classe, est nommé Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire de la République Française à Tanger, en remplacement de M. Ordega.

Art. 3. Le Président du Conseil, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, est chargé de l'exécution du présent Décret.

Fait à Paris, le 4 Décembre, 1884.

(Signé) JULES GRÉVY.

Par le Président de la République :

Le Président du Conseil,
Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,
(Signé) JULES FERRY.

No. 80.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Mr. Heneage.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 30, 1884.
IN reply to your letter of the 27th instant, I beg you will excuse my not entering into correspondence with you upon the subject of Mr. Meakin's affairs.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 81.

Mr. Heneage to Earl Granville.—(Received December 31.)

My Lord,

Hôtel d'Angleterre, Biarritz, December 28, 1884.
I HAVE the honour to mention that I wrote yesterday to Sir Julian Pauncefote in the matter of the official letter which was addressed to two editors of papers in Tangier.

Your Lordship is aware that the "Times of Morocco" was started at the instance of myself by its present editor, who has been most careful to conduct it in accordance with the programme considered to be in the best interests of the British community at Tangier.

It was arranged that I should come out to Tangier in the course of the winter and ascertain how matters stood. I received a very kind invitation from Sir John Hay (who is a very old friend of my family) to come to Tangier, and my brother also thought that this would be a good course to take, so that Members of the House of Commons might learn whether the British colony at Tangier had grounds for considering themselves neglected or not, and with a view to their interests being brought before Parliament in some practical and friendly way in the event of Members of the House deciding that they would be justified in doing so.

The editor of the "Times of Morocco" has conducted the paper on the lines as agreed upon, and has sent me a copy of the letter which was addressed by your Lordship's directions to two editors of papers at Tangier.

Your Lordship's well-known courtesy will, I feel confident, enable me to assure the editor of the "Times of Morocco" that this letter has been the result of some misconception.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. HENEAGE.

No. 82.

Earl Granville to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 54.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 31, 1884.

I TRANSMIT to you copy of a letter and of its inclosures from the Baron de Worms, President of the Anglo-Jewish Association,* relative to the persecution which the Jews of Demnat are alleged to be suffering at the hands of the Moorish Governor of that place; and I have to request you to make immediate inquiry into the matter, and should the facts as alleged be true, you should do your utmost to obtain the punishment of the Governor, and the prompt cessation of the persecution of which these unfortunate Jews complain.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 83.

Earl Granville to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 55. Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 31, 1884.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, copies of correspondence with Mr. C. Heneage upon the subject of Mr. Meakin;† and I take this opportunity of warning you that Mr. Heneage, who was formerly in the Diplomatic Service, is, owing to mental infirmity, not a person to be entirely relied upon.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 84.

Mr. Lister to Baron H. de Worms.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 31, 1884.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, relative to the persecutions which the Jews of Demnat, in Morocco, are alleged to be suffering at the hands of the Governor of that place, and, in reply, I am to state to you that a copy of your letter has been forwarded to Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, who has been instructed to inquire into the case without delay, and if the facts alleged prove to be true, to urge upon the Moorish Government the punishment of the Governor, and the immediate cessation of the persecution.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 85.

Mr. Lister to Mr. Heneage.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 31, 1884.

IN reply to your letter of the 28th instant, I am directed by Earl Granville to inform you that he cannot enter into correspondence with you upon the subject of Mr. Meakin's affairs.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

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* No. 72.

† Nos. 78, 80, 81, and 85.